

MANAGEMENT PLAN APRIL 2004



for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park



Ministry of Water,
Land and Air
Protection

DOC
BC
W373E58
D:P57
2004
c.3

This page intentionally left blank.

Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Environmental Stewardship
Vancouver Island Region

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication Data
British Columbia. Environmental Stewardship Division.
Vancouver Island Region.

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park management plan.

Cover title: Management plan for Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park.

ISBN 0-7726-5212-0

1. Pirates Cove Marine Park (B.C.). 2. Provincial
parks and reserves - British Columbia - Planning.
3. Provincial parks and reserves - British Columbia -
Management. 4. Marine parks and reserves - British
Columbia - Planning. 5. Marine parks and reserves -
British Columbia - Management. 6. Ecosystem management -
British Columbia - Pirates Cove Marine Park. I. Title.
II. Title: Management plan for Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park.

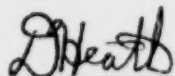
FC3815.P57B74 2004
F1089.P47B74 2004

333.78'3'097112

C2004-960110-5

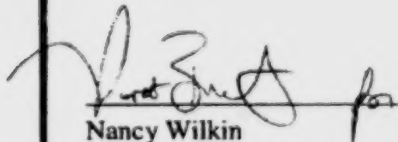
Pirates Cove Provincial Park Management Plan

Approved by:



Dick Heath
Regional Manager

Date: May 31 / 04



Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister

Date: June 28, 2004

This page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
PLAN CONTENTS.....	1
PLAN PURPOSE	1
PLANNING PROCESS	2
RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAND USE PLANS.....	2
KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES.....	2
BACKGROUND SUMMARY.....	4
2. ROLE OF THE PARK.....	7
VISION STATEMENT	7
CONSERVATION ROLE.....	7
CULTURAL ROLE	8
RECREATION ROLE	9
3. PARK ZONING.....	10
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE.....	10
SPECIAL FEATURE ZONE.....	10
4. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES.....	12
PARK BOUNDARY	13
FIRE MANAGEMENT.....	14
NATURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT.....	15
Vegetation.....	15
Terrestrial Wildlife	17
Geological Features	18
Coastal and Marine Values.....	19
Inholdings and Adjacent Tenures.....	20
CULTURAL VALUES MANAGEMENT	20
First Nations Cultural Values.....	21
Recent History.....	22
AESTHETIC VALUES MANAGEMENT.....	22
VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES	23
General Direction	23
Boating and Kayaking.....	24
Hiking and Day-Use	25
Camping	26
Fishing and Marine Harvesting	27
Commercial Recreational Use	28
INFORMATION STRATEGY.....	28
Interpretation.....	29

Marketing and Promotion.....	30
OTHER AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT.....	30
Other Agency Involvement	31
Public Participation.....	31
5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	33
HIGH PRIORITY STRATEGIES.....	33
TASK OR PROJECT STRATEGIES	35
ONGOING OR MONITORING STRATEGIES.....	37
 APPENDIX A – PARK CONCEPT PLAN	42
APPENDIX B – PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS.....	48
APPENDIX C – MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2001 PUBLIC MEETING.....	70
APPENDIX D – GENERALIZED PROVINCIAL PARK ZONING TABLE	82
APPENDIX E – LEGAL BOUNDARY	86

List of Figures

Figure 1. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park Location	5
Figure 2. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park Zoning	11
Figure 3. Development Concept for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.....	48

Acknowledgements

This management plan was prepared by Marcy Sangret of AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd. with the assistance of Environmental Stewardship Division staff. First Nations, other government agencies, interest groups and the general public provided invaluable input during the planning process.

The author would like to thank Jim Morris, Senior Planner, who managed the process on behalf of the Environmental Stewardship Division; Chris Kissinger, formerly the Acting District Manager for the former South Vancouver Island District, for his continued involvement in the process; and Environmental Stewardship Division staff Erv Newcombe, Bob Austad and Drew Chapman for their input. Rob Templeman of the Ministry of Forests is thanked for his participation in a site reconnaissance and for assisting in the development of fire management strategies.

Numerous members of the public and of various interest groups assisted in the identification of management issues, objectives and strategies through written submissions and through their participation in a public meeting. These included individuals, commercial tour operators, and representatives of various recreational boating clubs. In particular, members of the Maple Bay Yacht Club, who perform park hosting duties within Pirates Cove, provided significant input relating to boat use, educational opportunities and voluntary stewardship.

Throughout the planning process, DeCourcy Island property owners were active participants contributing their knowledge of the park and providing ongoing suggestions and feedback. The author would especially like to acknowledge the contributions of DeCourcy Island Community Association representatives Don Moss and John Nayler.

Plan Highlights

Overarching Vision, Role and Zoning

- Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park will protect and conserve 24 hectares of lands on DeCourcy Island and 7 hectares of adjacent foreshore in Pirates Cove.
- The values of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park, and goals for its protection and use, are reflected in a vision statement for the park and related conservation, cultural and recreation roles.
- The park will be managed for conservation goals with opportunities provided for low impact recreational day-use, camping and overnight boating.
- The park will be zoned primarily *Natural Environment* with pockets of land designated *Special Feature* to protect sensitive species, a largely intact archaeological midden and a remnant of the coastal bluff sensitive ecosystem.

Natural, Cultural and Aesthetic Values Management

- The Environmental Stewardship Division will pursue an extension of the park boundary to include additional foreshore to protect adjacent marine values.
- Management focus is primarily on the protection of natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and archaeological and cultural values.
- Special management attention will be provided to natural or cultural features that are unusual, rare, threatened or sensitive, such as rare plant species or communities.
- The management plan recognizes the need to emphasize respect for and protection of archaeological sites and historical features in the park.
- The management plan provides objectives and strategies to reduce the risks of an uncontrolled fire in the park.
- Park management will encourage the restoration and rehabilitation of areas that were once used for recreation and facility development.
- Additional scientific research is needed, and will be encouraged, to increase understanding of the park's natural and cultural values to ensure their protection.

Visitor Use and Facilities

- Appropriate recreational opportunities for this park include boating and anchoring, kayaking, camping, trail use, picnicking, nature appreciation, and scenic and wildlife viewing.
- Day-use activities will continue to occur throughout the park. Camping is located on the peninsula away from sensitive archaeological sites and separated from adjacent private properties and the existing road.
- Facilities and interpretive signage, which support low impact, compatible park uses, and which are in keeping with the park's natural setting, will continue to be provided at a level that will not exceed the park's environmental and social carrying capacities.

- Facilities that have historically been provided, including campsites, toilets, water pump, information signage, stern tie-rings for boats and dinghy docks, will continue to be provided according to the park concept plan (Appendix A).
- The visual qualities of the park will be maintained and park uses and facilities will be located and constructed to complement the park's natural features and setting.
- The impact of recreational use on the park's natural and cultural values will be monitored and management strategies will emphasize ways in which these impacts can be minimized.

Information Management, Park Operations and Involvement in Decision Making

- The management plan identifies ways to inform and educate the public about respect for and protection of the natural and cultural values of the park, and appropriate visitor behaviour.
- Opportunities for DeCourcy Island residents and other volunteers to participate in education and information dissemination will be provided.
- The Environmental Stewardship Division will investigate ways to supplement on-site enforcement and education regarding park regulations through agency staff, contractors or volunteers.
- First Nations, other provincial agencies, and other levels of government will be consulted and provided opportunities to participate in management decisions that are of interest to them.
- The Environmental Stewardship Division will liaise with the public, as needed, to ensure support for management decisions and optimize opportunities for public involvement in ongoing park management.
- The Environmental Stewardship Division will meet annually with the DeCourcy Island Community Association representatives, DeCourcy Island property owners, and other stakeholders to provide an avenue for ongoing communications relating to the management of the park.

Implementation of the management strategies outlined in this plan is subject to available funding and staff resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

Plan Contents

The management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park comprises five main sections:

1. **Introduction:** the purpose of the plan, planning context, and key management issues are discussed. A summary of background information is provided.
2. **Role of the Park:** this section defines a vision statement and the conservation, cultural and recreation roles of the park in the context of its provincial, regional and local significance.
3. **Park Zoning:** the park is divided into zones with consistent management objectives.
4. **Management Objectives and Strategies:** the plan outlines specific management objectives and strategies for protecting and managing park values and providing opportunities for recreation that are consistent with the park's defined vision and roles.
5. **Plan Implementation:** priorities for implementing the various components of the management plan are described.

The background report for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park should be used to supplement and support the information contained within the management plan. The background report contains detailed information about the park's history, context, values and management issues to inform and support management decisions. Unlike the background report, the management plan focuses on providing long-term management direction through a vision, zoning scheme and clearly-defined objectives, strategies and priorities for implementation.

Plan Purpose

The management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park defines the role of the park and establishes objectives and strategies to guide the conservation, development, interpretation and operation of the park for the foreseeable future. A key element of the plan is the vision statement. The vision is intended as an expression of a future desired state for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park that is shared and supported by all those interested in ensuring that the park's environmental, cultural and recreational values remain protected. Specific objectives and strategies presented in this plan support the vision and, through implementation, will lead to its achievement. Objectives and strategies are provided to address issues such as fire management, protection of natural, cultural and aesthetic values, and the provision of visitor opportunities, facilities and information. Additionally, the plan addresses strategies for ongoing park operations and management including opportunities for involvement by First Nations, other government bodies, island residents and the general public.

Planning Process

The planning process for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park was undertaken between August 2001 and March 2002. The process involved a number of steps including the review and analysis of existing information about the park, and consultation with government agencies, First Nations, DeCourcy Island property owners, and recreation interest groups. Two site visits were conducted to assess conditions in the park: one with agency staff from the Environmental Stewardship Division and the Ministry of Forests; and a second visit with representatives from the DeCourcy Island Community Association. The public was invited to participate in the process and, following an initial period of input, a public meeting was held to review the key management issues that had been identified. All comments received as part of the public process were reviewed and consolidated into a summary of issues requiring management direction.

A draft management plan, comprising a vision, zoning scheme, concept plan and recommended actions, was later developed and distributed for public comment. This final management plan reflects the feedback received as part of that review. Details of some of the key elements of the planning process are provided in appendices A through C.

Relationship to Other Land Use Plans

The Gulf Islands, including DeCourcy Island, were not included in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and have not been a part of any detailed land use planning process.

Subsequent to the creation of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park in 1968, an Official Community Plan (OCP) for DeCourcy Island was adopted in 1982 and amended in 2001. One of the goals set out in the OCP is to support the actions of the appropriate authorities in their efforts to supervise and control the quiet recreational use of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. However, there are notable inconsistencies between the DeCourcy Island OCP and the management of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park particularly with regard to the placement of some park facilities. For example, the OCP outlines a number of suggested management actions for the park including the concentration of recreational use and park facilities on the peninsula. Although the OCP was developed after park management practices were established, the Environmental Stewardship Division recognizes that the park management plan can, where appropriate, reflect the interests of the local Gulf Islands communities.

Key Management Issues

The management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park addresses a variety of issues as identified by the Environmental Stewardship Division and the public. A summary is provided below.

Park Boundary

The plan identifies opportunities to expand the park boundary, incorporating additional foreshore, to protect marine values and meet future recreation use requirements. Issues associated with the interface between parklands and private property are also addressed.

Fire Management

Similar to other Gulf Islands, a combination of factors such as climate, vegetation, access and human use contribute to concerns about fires in the park and the risks to public safety, park facilities and adjacent private properties. Fires are not permitted in the park. Objectives and strategies to continue to minimise the risk of fire through abatement of fire hazards and public education have been identified, along with a strategy to develop a *Vegetation Management Plan* that will address the role of fire in the natural ecosystem and a commitment from the island's residents to develop a fire management strategy for their properties.

Natural Values Management

The management plan identifies objectives and strategies needed for the long-term protection of natural park values including vegetation, terrestrial wildlife, geologic features, and coastal and marine systems. Actions include ways to maintain native ecosystems and minimize the negative impacts of recreational use.

Cultural Values Management

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park has a rich and interesting history and many important artifacts remain. Measures are recommended to protect all cultural heritage features and, specifically, to protect the five known archaeological sites located within the park.

Aesthetic Values Management

The peaceful setting and natural scenery in and around Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park contribute to the park's character and its attraction for visitors. The management plan specifies ways in which the aesthetic values of the park – including visual and auditory values – can be preserved.

Visitor Use and Facilities

Visitor use issues addressed in the management plan include: the identification of appropriate activities; the management of these activities; and the amount, type and location of facilities such as toilets, trails, campsites, signage and facilities for boaters. Objectives and strategies are provided to facilitate appropriate recreational use, in keeping with the park vision, and to minimize the impacts of recreational use on other park values.

Information Strategy

The management plan communicates information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park to users and those planning to visit the park.

Other Agency and Public Involvement

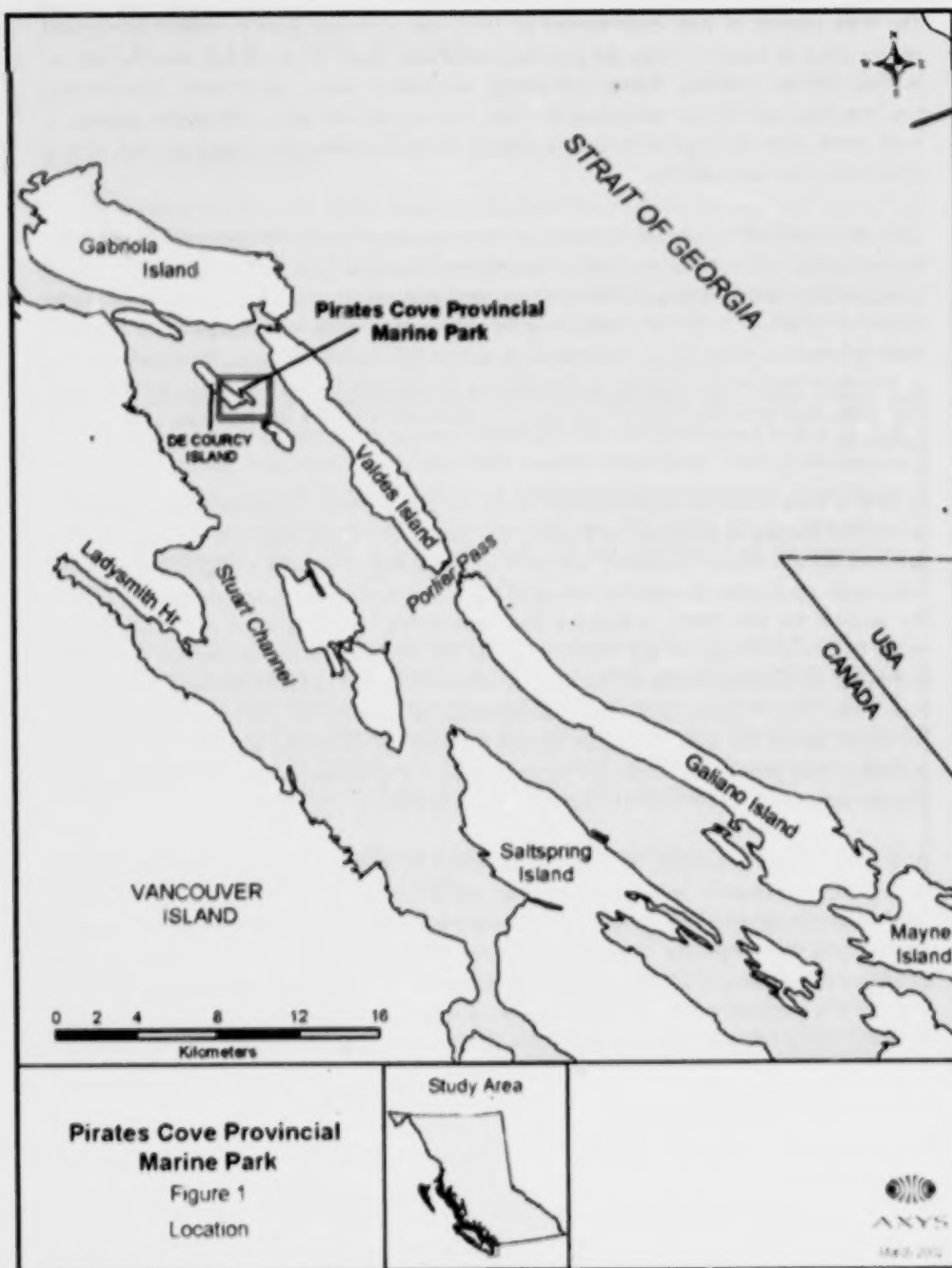
The management plan identifies objectives and strategies for ensuring that First Nations, other government agencies, the DeCourcy Island community, and the broader public are adequately consulted and provided opportunities to participate in the ongoing operation and management of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

Background Summary

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is located at the southeast tip of DeCourcy Island (Figure 1) a small, unserviced Gulf Island found approximately 18 km southeast of Nanaimo. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is approximately 31 ha in size, comprising 24 ha of upland and 7 ha of foreshore. Bordered by ocean on three sides, the park offers approximately 2750 m of shoreline. There is no ferry service to DeCourcy Island and no commercial facilities exist. The park is accessible only by boat, and it is located within a relatively short distance from Nanaimo Harbour on Vancouver Island. The park also attracts boaters from the Vancouver and Victoria areas, and other Gulf Islands. Private dwellings lie adjacent to the western boundary of the park. A narrow gravel road runs the full length of the island providing access for residents to a private boat basin located adjacent to the park boundary in Pirates Cove.

DeCourcy Island lies within the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw (or Nanaimo) and Lyackson First Nations. DeCourcy, as well as neighbouring islands, were used seasonally by the Snuneymuxw and Lyackson peoples and possibly by the Chemainus First Nations. In total, five archaeological sites exist within the park as visible physical remains of First Nations culture. DeCourcy Island also has a colourful recent history. In the early 1930s it was the location of the Aquarian Foundation, a quasi-religious cult headed by a man called Brother XII. Historic use of Pirates Cove as a popular anchorage preceded the creation of the provincial park by many decades. This cove has long been one of the most popular anchorages for boats and yachts in southern British Columbia.

In 1965, the land that is now known as Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park was acquired by the Provincial Government. The negotiations to purchase these lands originally included only lands on the peninsula; later during the transaction the owners, in exchange for a water lot lease in the cove, added the 10 acres comprising the isthmus between the peninsula and the mainland. The park, including 7 hectares of foreshore, was officially designated in 1968 as a Class 'A' park under the *Park Act*.



The main purpose of park establishment in 1968 was to provide marine-oriented recreational opportunities for boaters. Today, the park supports a wide range of recreational activities such as boating, fishing, camping, hiking, swimming, picnicking, nature appreciation, photography, beachcombing and historic interpretation. Park facilities include trails, information signage, a water pump, stern tie-rings for boats, two dinghy docks, a marine park host float, and several picnic tables and tent platforms.

Like other Gulf Islands, DeCourcy Island is home to seasonal and permanent residents. These residents place a high value on Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park for its natural and cultural values, and its tranquil setting. However, some property owners have expressed concerns about the level of development in the park, particularly the number of facilities located adjacent to the park's western boundary, which abuts private lands. Residents believe that the proximity of park facilities to private properties has resulted in disturbances to residents by way of noise, trespass, and vandalism, and, most significantly, has created an increased risk of a fire occurring as a result of campfires.

In light of these concerns, some members of the DeCourcy Island Community Association have questioned whether development of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park over the past 35 years has occurred in a manner consistent with their understanding of the park's original intent. These individuals say that the Minister for Provincial Parks who participated in negotiations to purchase the lands in the late 1960s, indicated to the vendors that the 10 acres closest to the private properties was to be reserved as a 'buffer zone' and that no development was intended in this area. According to residents, reasons for establishing this 'buffer zone' included, foremost, the desire to concentrate park facilities, particularly campsites, to the east of the low-lying fen area which provides a natural fire break. Secondary reasons included a more defined separation between park use and private property to reduce the negative effects of noise and trespass on residents and to separate park users from activities occurring outside the park.

At the time of park dedication, no protective covenants or other notations were registered against the land title to indicate a 'no development' zone within this park. In the absence of such direction, the Province introduced both day-use and overnight facilities into the area in question, including several campsites originally constructed between 1973 and 1976. The relocation of these campsites in the spring of 2001 as a measure to protect known archaeological sites, as well as the addition of a composting toilet in the area residents refer to as the 'buffer zone', led to complaints from DeCourcy Island Community Association members and precipitated the need to develop a long-term management plan for the park that would better represent the needs of the Environmental Stewardship Division, island residents and park users.

2. ROLE OF THE PARK

Vision Statement

Looking forward in time, the vision statement describes the character of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. A clear long-term vision helps to guide short-term management strategies and assists in reacting to changing demands in recreation and incorporating new approaches to conservation management. Through this 'bigger picture', the vision provides a context in which to guide park management. The vision statement is presented below.

The natural values of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park are maintained with a goal of ensuring the park's long-term health. Identified sensitive ecosystems, rare or uncommon plants, and coastal and marine habitats are given special management priority. First Nation and historical values are preserved and, where appropriate, interpreted for the educational benefit of park users. First Nation archaeological sites are protected from the impacts of human use.

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park continues to provide a peaceful and tranquil setting for recreational uses by visitors and island residents. The park provides opportunities for boating, hiking, beachcombing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, camping and wildlife watching. Facilities and interpretive opportunities, which support low impact, compatible park uses and which are in keeping with the park's natural setting, are provided at a level that does not exceed the park's environmental and social carrying capacities.

All park users, as well as the DeCourcy Island community, continue to play an important role in the ongoing stewardship of this park.

Conservation Role

The Environmental Stewardship Division has two conservation goals: ecosystem representation and special features conservation. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park contributes to both goals.

Within the ecoregion classification system (based on landform and climate), Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park lies within the *Nanaimo Lowland Ecoregion* within the *Eastern Vancouver Island Ecoregion* within the *Georgia Depression Ecoregion*, which lies between the Vancouver Island Mountains and the southern Coast Mountains. Within the biogeoclimatic classification system (based primarily on climate, soils and vegetation), Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park lies within and is an example of the *Moist Maritime Coastal Douglas-fir Biogeoclimatic Zone*. The foreshore

component of the park lies within the *Strait of Georgia Marine Ecosystem*.

Like many provincial parks on the Gulf Islands, Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park protects special natural features including native plants such as the Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus Scopulorum*), pipsissewa (*Chimaphila menziesii*) and satin-flower (*Sisyrinchium douglasii*) which are unusual to this region. Also found within the park are poison oak and Garry oak. The poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) is a blue-listed species on the BC Conservation Data Centre's Rare Vascular Plant Tracking List, while Garry oaks are restricted primarily to the southeast coast of Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands, in Canada. In the *Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) of East Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands* coordinated by Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (Vancouver Island Region, Nanaimo), nearly the whole park is identified as a sensitive ecosystem. These ecosystems provide important habitats for native species of wildlife. In addition to vegetation and wildlife, Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park also protects unique landforms and physical features, for example, the park displays many interesting eroded sandstone formations along its shoreline.

Conservation measures in this park will therefore emphasize the following:

- Protection of representative native plants and plant communities with emphasis on unusual, rare, threatened or sensitive species and the maintenance of ecological integrity.
- Protection of terrestrial and marine wildlife and their habitats from disturbances from human use or facility development.
- Protection of shoreline features and landforms that are examples of natural coastal processes.
- Acquisition of additional marine foreshore to protect marine life and their habitats including seabirds, seals, porpoises and whales.

Cultural Role

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park has a rich and interesting history spanning its early use by First Nations, to its use as a homestead for a religious cult, to its present inhabitation by Gulf Islanders. The history and culture of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park are reflected in the following themes:

- **First Nations History:** There are several shell middens, classified as archaeological sites, indicating First Nation settlements close to the abundant shellfish beds.
- **Recent History:** DeCourcy Island was the home of the Aquarian Foundation - a religious cult. The cult's infamous leader, Brother XII, and his 8000 followers spent time on the island in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Since this time, the

island has been a seasonal and permanent home to Gulf Islanders who have maintained a long-standing interest in the park.

Recreation Role

The Environmental Stewardship Division has four recreation goals: tourism travel routes; outdoor recreation holiday destination; backcountry; and local/regional recreation. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park contributes to the tourism travel route and local/region recreation goals by providing easily accessible day- and overnight-use as part of a system of marine parks and boating destinations within the Southern Gulf Islands. The park is located within a relatively short boat trip from Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver and smaller Gulf Island communities. Additionally, Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park offers one of only a few sheltered anchorages in the region, which further contributes to its popularity by boaters.

The park also contributes to recreation goals by protecting a natural environment suitable for the provision of a variety of recreational opportunities. Specifically:

- The park offers day-use activities such as boating and kayaking, swimming, crab and oyster harvesting, hiking and wildlife viewing. The park also offers opportunities for overnight boat anchorage and camping in a natural setting.
- Located on a marine corridor, there is potential for whale watching and wildlife viewing through Ruxton Pass and Pylades Channel.

Regionally, Pirates Cove Provincial Marine Park is one of 28 provincially designated marine parks located in the Environmental Stewardship Division Vancouver Island Region. Nearby provincial marine parks include: Newcastle Island, Whaleboat Island, Dionisio Point, Wallace Island and Montague Harbour. Terrestrial-based provincial parks in the region include Sandwell, Drumbeg and Gabriola Sands provincial parks. Additionally, plans are underway by the provincial and federal government to create an expanded system of marine protected areas in the Southern Gulf Islands including a new national park reserve. Recent provincial land and foreshore acquisitions have included Jedediah Island, Burgoyne Bay on Saltspring Island, and Wakes Cove on Valdes Island. This new expanded marine park system will likely have an impact on the use of provincial parks located within the Southern Gulf Islands.

Marine developments such as Silva Bay Marina and Degnen Bay Public Wharf, both on Gabriola Island, provide supporting facilities for users of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. Many marine parks other than Pirates Cove offer anchorages and kayak opportunities as well as walk-in campsites, beaches and hiking trails. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park complements these opportunities and also offers recreational opportunities in a more natural setting than some other parks that are more intensely used and developed. Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park also offers opportunities for cultural heritage interpretation given its interesting history.

3. PARK ZONING

Zoning is a key tool in planning for the future management of a park. It divides a park into logical units to apply uniform and consistent management objectives. Zoning defines levels of use and criteria for the management of park values. Consideration of existing and projected patterns of access and recreational use is important in defining appropriate park zones.

The objectives of each zone type are defined at the provincial level and zoning categories are applied consistently in all provincial parks. Appendix D provides a description of the generalized provincial park zoning categories. Policy decisions specific to Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park are indicated in Section 4 of this management plan. An activity may be permissible in a provincial zone description, but not necessarily in Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

As indicated in Figure 2, Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park comprises two zones: *Natural Environment* and *Special Feature*.

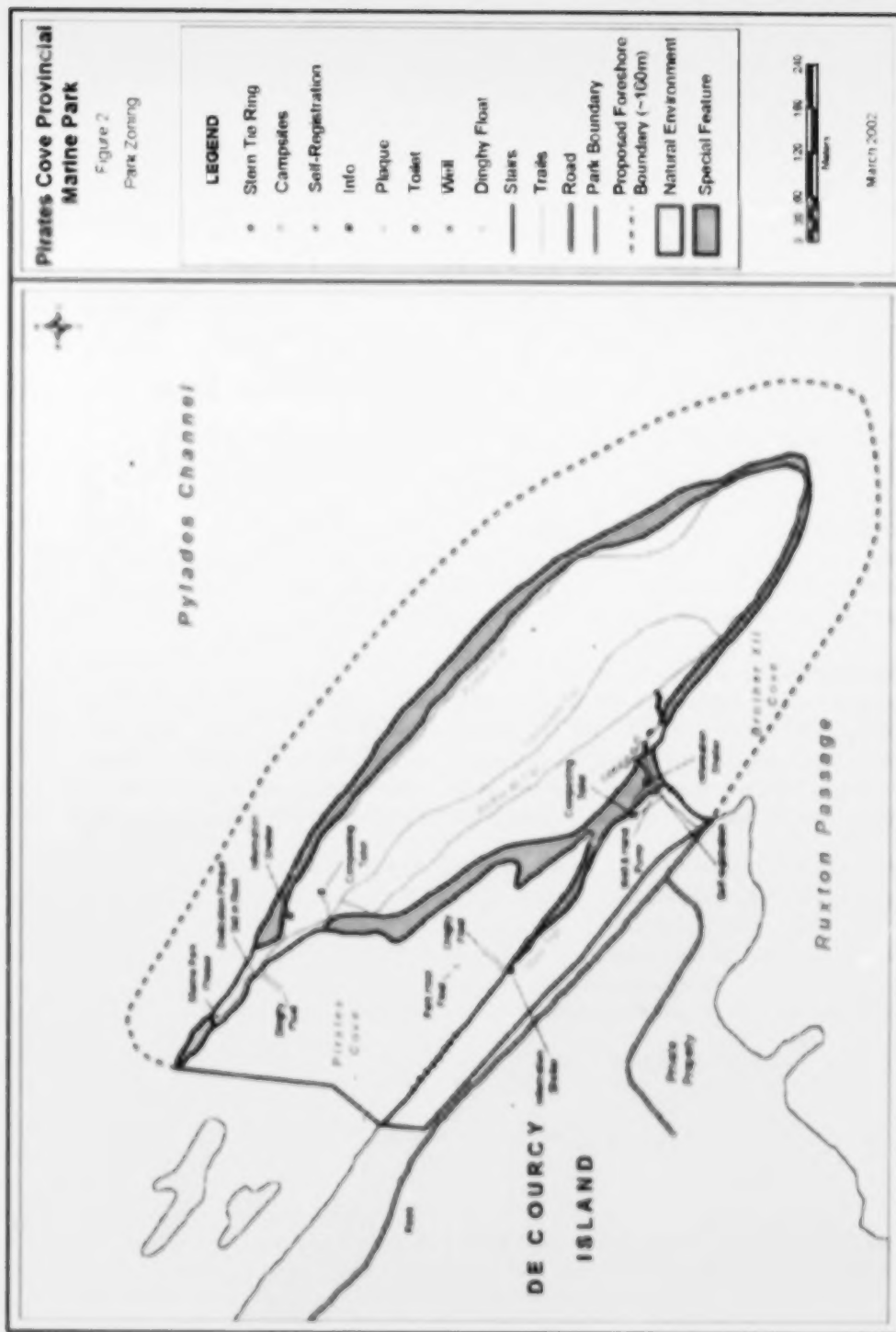
Natural Environment Zone

The *Natural Environment* zone comprises approximately 80% of the park. Provincially, the objective of the *Natural Environment* zone is to protect scenic values and provide for a variety of easily accessible off-road recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment. The main management objective is to allow recreational use while keeping impacts below levels that will impair park values or significantly reduce user satisfaction. In the case of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park, the objective of this zone is to retain naturally evolving ecosystems while providing for complementary low impact outdoor recreation opportunities. Facilities will be provided where they are necessary to protect natural values, provide education or interpretation, or support appropriate recreational opportunities.

Although part of the *Natural Environment* zone, the management plan calls for the lowland area on the isthmus and the western portion of the park located on the mainland of DeCourcy Island (i.e., all park land west of the peninsula) to be kept free of overnight use. Campsites and picnic tables will be relocated again (completed in March 2002, see Figure 2) and this area will be reserved for uses such as walking and nature appreciation.

Special Feature Zone

The *Special Feature* zone comprises approximately 20% of the park. Provincially, the objective of this zone is to protect significant natural or cultural values, features or processes because of their special character, fragility or heritage value. Recreational use and facilities are not appropriate within this zone with the exception of low impact interpretation or educational opportunities.



Within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park, the following features fall within the *Special Feature* zone designation:

1) **Archaeological Middens:** Archaeological middens located within the park are zoned *Special Feature* in recognition of their cultural significance. In particular, the large, intact archaeological midden (classified as archaeological site DbRw6), extending between the two coves, has been rated as having a high archaeological significance based on its size and depth. The midden measures approximately 160 by 20 m, and is between 1.0 and 1.5 m deep. It is primarily composed of shells of whole and broken littleneck, butter and horse clams, cockles, edible mussels, barnacles and fire-broken rock. Four other archaeological sites (DgRw10, DgRw11, DgRw116 and DgRw117), all middens, are encapsulated in the *Special Feature* zone. The exact locations of these sites have not been shown on the map (Figure 2) to discourage visitation.

2) **Coastal Bluff Sensitive Ecosystem:** As part of the *Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory of East Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands*, the northern tip of the peninsula within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park was mapped as *Coastal Bluff*, a sensitive ecosystem type based on its rarity, potential to support rare plant and animal species, value as wildlife habitat and biodiversity values. Coastal bluff ecosystems are often associated with nesting seabirds. Soils are typically thin, and both soil and vegetation are susceptible to human disturbance. This area therefore requires special management consideration to protect its sensitive values.

3) **Shoreline and Associated Vegetation:**

In addition to archaeological sites, the shoreline along Pirates Cove also supports rare vegetation, specifically poison oak. The poison oak is a blue-listed species on the BC Conservation Data Centre's Rare Vascular Plant Tracking List, meaning that it is 'vulnerable' in British Columbia and sensitive to human disturbance. Specimens of the western yew are also found within this zone. Although not rare regionally, there are only a few mature western yew trees within the park.

4. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Park Boundary

The boundary of the park is the legal administrative tool used to define those lands (including foreshore) of which the Environmental Stewardship Division has legislated authority to manage values and provide recreation opportunities. In some cases, changes to a park boundary after designation are necessary to safeguard existing park values from adjacent land uses, manage ecosystems over larger areas, or meet an increasing demand for recreational use. In the case of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park, there are three issues concerning the park's boundary: 1) the present park boundary does not sufficiently protect important coastal and marine values; 2) the park is currently too small to meet growing demand by users; and 3) the present boundary is not adequately marked leading to trespass of some park users onto adjacent private properties. The legal boundary of the park is presented in Appendix E¹.

Objectives:

1. To identify and pursue opportunities to expand the park boundary by including more foreshore.
2. To clearly define the boundary between the park and private property on DeCourcy Island.

Strategies:

- Extend the boundary of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park to include additional foreshore out to approximately 100 metres (see dashed line on Figure 2). When incorporated into the park, the additional foreshore will be zoned *Natural Environment* and the new park boundary will be delineated in marine park brochures, in-park information, and on marine charts.
- Erect signage at access points to better define where the park ends and private property begins.

¹ The legal description provided in Appendix E should be used for any discussions regarding the present or proposed boundary of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. Maps included in this management plan are for illustrative purposes and do not precisely reflect the park's legal boundary.

Fire Management

As on all Gulf Islands, fire poses a risk to public safety and personal property. However, unlike some islands, DeCourcy is an unserviced island with no formal, on-island fire fighting capability or emergency services. Additionally, the Environmental Stewardship Division does not maintain a regular enforcement presence in Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. In 1977 a *Fire Control Survey* was completed for this park and in 1991 a 'No Fires' policy was implemented. In 2000, a *Fire Management Plan* for the park was completed which classified areas according to their fire hazard and identified potential firebreaks. Both the naturally occurring fen located inside the park, and the gravel road located just outside the park, act as firebreaks for the residents of DeCourcy Island should a fire originate in the park. Although an uncontrolled fire has never occurred at this park, and no fires are permitted, residents have raised concerns about the possibility and implications of a fire originating in the park.

Objectives:

1. To manage the risk of unwanted fire originating in the park through vegetation management and placement of facilities.
2. To educate park visitors and those planning to visit the park about the 'No Fires' policy and the risks and implications of fire.
3. To collaborate with DeCourcy Island residents and the Ministry of Forests in developing fire prevention and response plans for the entire island.

Strategies:

- Continue to prohibit fires in the park.
- Continue to implement, and update as appropriate, the 2000 *Fire Management Plan* in light of the recommendations of this management plan, and develop a strategy for reducing vegetation fuel loads within the park (e.g., removal of woody debris, limbing of downed trees).
- Relocate camping facilities to take advantage of the natural firebreak provided by the low-lying fen (completed March 2002).
- Communicate information to visitors about the risks of fire on unserviced islands. This may include, for example, fire prevention signage near campsites or pre-trip information outlining the consequences of an escaped campfire on the park and adjacent properties.
- Engage park hosts and volunteers from the island community in a program to educate park users and island residents about a 'No Fires' policy on DeCourcy Island.
- Collaborate with DeCourcy Island residents to maintain coordinated fire prevention measures for the entire island. Participate in discussion forums with the Ministry of Forests and island residents regarding fire response planning.

- Develop a protocol agreement with island residents for emergency access into the park, which will include a provision to provide a key to the pin gate should fire suppression be required.

Natural Values Management

Natural values within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park include vegetation, wildlife, geological, coastal and marine values. The objectives and strategies in this management plan are directed towards protecting these values, retaining natural ecological processes as best as possible, and minimizing the impacts of recreational use. To ensure that management decisions are based on the best available information about the park's ecological components, encouraging research is an important element of natural values management.

Vegetation

Although primarily second-growth forest, Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park protects native vegetation and habitats that are representative of the Moist, Maritime Coastal Douglas-fir (CDFmm) ecosystem of the Gulf Islands. Vegetation in the park varies from grassy clearings and low-lying fens to rocky outcrops and a mature forest. The majority of the second-growth forest in the park is composed of mixed stands of Douglas-fir and arbutus and/or Garry oak with Oregon grape, salal, bracken fern and hairy honeysuckle composing the majority of the understorey. The forest is valuable for biodiversity and important for wildlife. The forested areas of the park are also important for their recreational and visual values. The management plan aims to protect native vegetation from the impacts of recreation, and to restore areas that have been damaged or degraded as a result of past or present uses.

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park contains several unusual, rare and sensitive vegetation features that require special management consideration. One rare plant known to exist in the park is poison oak, which is considered vulnerable (i.e., blue-listed) provincially. Garry oaks, which also exist within the park, are restricted primarily to the southeast coast of Vancouver Island and the southern Gulf Islands. The Garry oak ecosystem is not listed provincially as rare nor is it officially recognized nationally as endangered. However, today less than 5% of the original habitat remains in its near-natural condition. The northern tip of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park contains a remnant coastal bluff ecosystem according to the Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory. This rare ecosystem, zoned *Special Feature* in this plan, provides specialized wildlife habitats and supports distinct plant communities.

Objectives:

1. To protect, maintain and enhance native plant species and communities.
2. To protect, maintain and enhance rare, endangered or sensitive plant species and communities.

3. To allow for the natural restoration of native vegetation in areas that have been damaged or degraded as a result of past or existing park uses.
4. To control invasive non-native species and discourage the establishment of additional non-native species.
5. To manage forest understorey, where appropriate, to reduce the fire hazard in the park in accordance with an approved *Vegetation Management Plan*.
6. To encourage the retention of large trees in the park.
7. To educate park visitors about sensitive vegetation communities to foster awareness and stewardship.
8. To encourage environmentally-sensitive scientific studies to improve understanding of vegetation dynamics and to guide future management strategies.

Strategies:

- Complete a vegetation inventory to identify and map plant communities including rare, endangered or sensitive species and communities.
- Prepare a *Vegetation Management Plan* that will identify specific management strategies based on the findings of the vegetation inventory and mapping. The *Vegetation Management Plan* should address issues such as: the historic role of fire and implications of suppression; restoration of disturbed sites; control of invasive or exotic species; management of insects and disease; protection of sensitive, rare or endangered species and communities; and restoration of forest diversity to improve wildlife habitat and aesthetic values.
- Manage the coastal bluff sensitive ecosystem (zoned *Special Feature*) to be consistent with the *Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory Conservation Manual*², including discouraging recreational access, use and development within this area.
- Protect sensitive or unique vegetation communities (e.g., poison oak) from the adverse impacts of recreational use by locating trails away from these areas and discouraging access through the use of natural barriers or fencing where appropriate.
- Promote only low impact recreational use. Use tent platforms to minimize impacts on soil and vegetation and direct recreational use away from sensitive areas (completed March 2002).
- Allow for the natural restoration of native vegetation in the area near the park's western boundary following the removal of campsites. Where necessary, provide temporary fencing until new growth has established.
- In areas that have been degraded due to overuse, consider temporarily closing trails or fencing off areas to allow for natural revegetation.

² McPhee, M., P. Ward, J. Kirkby, L. Worlfe, N. Page, K. Dunster, N.K. Dawe and I. Nykwist. 2000. *Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory: East Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, 1993-1997. Volume 2: Conservation Manual*. Technical Report Series No. 345, Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon Region, BC.

- Monitor and manage the introduction and spread of invasive exotic plant species such as Scotch broom, spurge-laurel, English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and English holly.
- Retain dead and decaying trees for wildlife habitat except in situations where there is a threat to the safety of visitors or park facilities. In accordance with the Environmental Stewardship Division *Hazard Tree Policies*, before removing large trees that might pose a threat to public safety, consider alternatives such as re-directing public use.
- Develop public awareness programs to foster respect for the park's vegetation and natural processes.
- Encourage and support research activities to better understand natural values and processes. All research activities will be controlled with a park use permit.

Terrestrial Wildlife

A variety of wildlife species inhabit DeCourcy Island and Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. These include native mammals such as black-tailed deer, river otters, mink and raccoon. The vegetation of the park is suitable habitat for birds such as woodpeckers, owls, chickadees, swallows and bald eagles. Pacific-slope flycatchers, black oystercatchers, white-crowned sparrows and bald eagles are some of the species known to breed in the park. The park is also considered an important area for gulls, loons, cormorants, grebes, diving ducks and alcids. The great blue heron, bald eagle, and many other coastal and marine birds are known to use the park for foraging and resting. Wildlife species contribute considerably to the park's diversity and its appeal to visitors. Steps must therefore be taken to maintain wildlife populations and preserve critical habitats.

Objectives:

1. To protect wildlife species and populations within the park with special attention to sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species.
2. To maintain or enhance the diversity of native wildlife species within the park.
3. To protect critical habitats and enhance declining habitats, where compatible with other park management objectives.
4. To educate park visitors about wildlife in the park and promote non-consumptive appreciation of wildlife.
5. To increase knowledge and understanding of wildlife species and their habitats in the park through scientific research and data collection.

Strategies:

- Maintain habitat values for native species within the park through vegetation management strategies (identified in the *Vegetation Management Plan*) and controls on recreational use.
- Retain dead and decaying trees for wildlife except in situations where there is a threat to the safety of visitors or park facilities.
- Continue to prohibit hunting and trapping in the park.
- Ensure public awareness and enforcement of dogs on leash within the park.
- Where appropriate, implement wildlife habitat enhancement projects to restore degraded wildlife habitats to their natural condition.
- Minimize the impacts of recreational activities and facilities on wildlife by locating facilities (e.g., trails and campsites) away from sensitive habitats and encouraging only low impact activities such as hiking on trails.
- Cooperate and establish common objectives with other government agencies, First Nations, interest groups and the public to manage wildlife.
- Develop public awareness programs to foster respect for wildlife and encourage low impact viewing and appreciation.
- Encourage and support research activities to better understand wildlife and their habitat requirements. All research activities will be controlled with a park use permit.

Geological Features

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park contains fragile and dynamic coastal erosion features. The majority of the park consists of sandstone that is continuously eroding through wave and tidal action. Sensitive beach areas, sandstone reefs, and lacy, eroded formations can be found along the park's shoreline. These features require protection from disturbances that may impair their integrity or alter natural geological processes.

Objectives:

1. To identify and protect unique and/or sensitive geological features found within the park.

Strategies:

- Identify geological features that are vulnerable to disturbance and manage access to these areas if required.

Coastal and Marine Values

This management plan addresses coastal and marine issues such as foreshore acquisition, water quality, and management of offshore recreational and commercial uses to protect values within the existing park boundary and any future foreshore additions. Many species of marine mammals are commonly found along the shores and waters surrounding DeCourcy Island including harbour seals, California and Northern sea lions, seals, porpoises and whales. Herring spawn in Pylades Channel attracting large numbers of predators such as bald eagles and pinnipeds. Other fish species found in the region include salmonids and numerous species of rockfish, cod, halibut, dogfish and greenling. Invertebrates found in the foreshore areas include crabs and shrimp. The shallow waters along the mid-eastern shore of DeCourcy Island are also abundant with clams, oysters and sand dollars. Recreational oyster harvesting exists within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park and crabs are commercially and recreationally harvested with traps. Herring roe, shrimp and crabs are also commercially harvested, just offshore of the park, in Pylades Channel.

Objectives:

1. To protect the marine values and coastal environment surrounding Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park through acquisition of additional foreshore. Once acquired, the marine component will be managed to protect natural features and ecosystems.
2. To document marine vegetation and wildlife to better understand the nature of marine values and to protect sensitive marine features, species and habitats.
3. To maintain and protect the natural diversity of marine species and populations and protect critical habitats.
4. To prevent pollution and maintain or improve water quality in the foreshore area for the benefit of aquatic life as well as recreational use.

Strategies:

- Obtain additional foreshore, out to approximately 100 metres, for inclusion in Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park (See also Park Boundary section).
- Maintain voluntary guidelines regarding 'No Dumping' of holding tanks or any other contaminant. Pursue further protection through federal regulations regarding sewage discharge.
- Complete an inventory of marine vegetation and wildlife to determine management strategies required for their protection.
- Monitor benthic communities in anchorage areas to identify the impacts associated with anchoring and, if necessary, develop strategies for mitigation.
- Conduct regular water quality monitoring in conjunction with other provincial or federal agencies.
- Cooperate with and support other processes that will improve or maintain water quality within and adjacent to the park.

- Allow coastal processes to occur such as the accumulation of driftwood on beaches.
- Ensure facilities such as docks, floats and pilings are not constructed from creosote-treated lumber, which can have serious long-term impacts on wildlife.
- Work with holders of the water lot lease in Pirates Cove to mitigate any potential impacts of the use of the lease area on the waters within Pirates Cove.
- Encourage proper water use, sewage and garbage disposal procedures through an information program.
- Inform park visitors of regulations regarding the harvesting of marine life through signage.
- Work with other provincial and federal agencies to manage impacts to the park foreshore from outside uses and from activities occurring within the park (e.g., commercial crab trapping).

Inholdings and Adjacent Tenures

There are no inholdings, tenures or resource interests such as mineral claims or forest interests within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. In the adjacent foreshore, there is one water lot lease.

Objectives:

1. To work with other agencies and stakeholders to manage the existing water lot lease in a manner that is consistent with the park's vision and conservation and recreation roles.
2. To prohibit future inholdings within the park.

Strategies:

- To work with Land and Water British Columbia and leaseholders in the management of water lot leases.
- To ensure future foreshore expansions or uses of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park do not impede navigational access to the water lot lease.

Cultural Values Management

Archaeological sites on DeCourcy Island indicate human habitation by First Nations dating back for many centuries, and old farm buildings (located on the island but outside the park) are evidence of early European settlement. Historical, cultural and archaeological features found within the park have special significance – they are an important part of British Columbia's heritage and must be protected.

First Nations Cultural Values

DeCourcy Island lies within the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw (or Nanaimo) and Lyackson First Nations. The Lyackson First Nation historically occupied lands in the southern Gulf Islands including DeCourcy and Valdes Islands. Valdes Island, to the northeast, is within the traditional territory of the Chemainus First Nation who may also have used DeCourcy.

Three archaeological survey projects have been undertaken within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. In the 1960s, three archaeological sites (shell middens) were recorded within what is now the park. In 1975 the three known sites were revisited and two additional shell middens were recorded. An archaeological inventory was completed for the park in 2001 to determine the condition of the five known sites and to inspect three proposed composting toilet locations. In total, five archaeological sites exist within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park as visible physical remains of First Nations culture.

Objectives:

1. To work cooperatively with First Nations to ensure that management decisions reflect their interests particularly with respect to the protection of cultural values and archaeological sites.
2. To protect First Nations archaeological sites from disturbances associated with human use and facility development.
3. To provide information and education on First Nations culture and history to the visiting public.

Strategies:

- Establish and maintain a working relationship with local First Nations people and involve First Nations in discussions regarding management activities adjacent to archaeological sites.
- Maintain a record of archaeological values and sites located within the park.
- Implement protective measures near archaeological sites as recommended through discussions with First Nations. Protective measures include locating trails and facilities to avoid culturally sensitive areas. Where culturally sensitive areas cannot be avoided, trails will be well defined and visitors will be directed to remain on these designated trails.
- Conduct impact assessments when constructing or relocating facilities.
- Conduct further research and assess First Nations archaeological resources for education, scientific and protective purposes.
- Ensure that research relating to archaeological sites has the involvement of First Nations peoples and the Heritage Conservation Branch, and is conducted under a *Heritage Conservation Act* permit and park use permit.

- Develop appropriate management, information and education strategies through discussions with First Nations to ensure the long-term protection of archaeological sites within the park.

Recent History

DeCourcy Island has a colourful recent history. In the early 1930s it was the location of the Aquarian Foundation, a quasi-religious cult headed by a man called Brother XII for whom the south cove is now named. Pirates Cove, on the north side of the park, was known as 'the Haven' or 'Gospel Cove' by the Aquarians. Following ownership by Brother XII, the land that is now contained within the park saw several different owners before being sold to the province in 1965.

Objectives:

1. To protect historical features associated with the Aquarian Foundation (e.g., Brother XII gun emplacements).
2. To present information to the visiting public about the recent history of the lands which are now Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

Strategies:

- Monitor and mitigate impacts to historical features that are associated with park use (e.g., vandalism or souvenir collection).
- Develop low-key interpretive information regarding the park's recent history and significant cultural features.

Aesthetic Values Management

The aesthetic values associated with the park are an important part of the attraction for visitors. Visual features include an interesting shoreline of eroded lace-pattern sandstone, mature forest with an absence of conspicuous logging, and the many small bays and beaches along the natural-appearing and unaltered coastline. Dramatic views from the park include sea vistas, views of nearby Gulf Islands, views of Vancouver Island and coastal mountain ranges. In addition to its scenery, the park is known for its peaceful and tranquil qualities. Both visual and auditory values are fundamental to the visitor experience at Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

Objectives:

1. To preserve and improve the visual and auditory qualities of the park's natural environment.

2. To maintain viewing opportunities associated with the park's marine setting and wildlife.
3. To design and situate park facilities in a manner that preserves the visual integrity of the park and complements its natural setting.

Strategies:

- Work cooperatively with other agencies and surrounding landowners to minimize the visual and auditory impacts to park users resulting from activities occurring outside of the park.
- In keeping with park zoning objectives, situate trails, day-use areas and campsites to take full advantage of viewing opportunities in areas that do not compromise significant natural values.
- Where feasible, design, construct and maintain facilities so that they are in harmony with the natural park setting. For example, when economically feasible, use natural materials that blend in with the surrounding environment.

Visitor Use and Facilities

This section of the management plan describes the strategies for managing outdoor recreation and park visitors. The vision for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park allows for opportunities for people to experience the park in ways that are compatible with its features and which do not compromise natural or cultural heritage values. Although no major recreation, tourism or education facilities exist within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park, the park does offer many opportunities for both passive and active recreation including some commercially guided recreation. The proximity of Pirates Cove to population centres such as Vancouver and Nanaimo makes it an attractive and accessible location for day trips or overnight visits. However, the provision of accessible recreational opportunities must be balanced with conservation objectives and the desire to maintain a sense of naturalness in this park. The general concept for the park is described in more detail in Appendix A. The concept plan shows that the current level of development in Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is adequate.

General Direction

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is a destination for all types of boaters and is a popular day-use area for residents of DeCourcy Island. Associated opportunities include swimming, beachcombing, crab and oyster harvesting, picnicking, hiking, nature study and camping. Historically, park facilities have consisted of all-weather anchorage, mooring rings, dinghy floats, walk-in campsites, toilet facilities, picnic tables, hiking trails, dedication plaque, information kiosks, and a hand pump for water.

Objectives:

1. To ensure that recreation promotion, development and use is compatible with park values and conservation objectives.
2. To encourage only low impact recreation and quiet appreciation of the park.
3. To concentrate overnight camping facilities on the peninsula to take advantage of natural firebreaks and provide a separation between park visitor use and private property (completed March 2002).

Strategies:

- Manage recreation use in conjunction with the park's zoning plan so that natural and cultural values are minimally affected.
- Locate facilities and trails in a manner that diverts use away from sensitive natural, cultural and special features (e.g., archaeological sites, coastal bluff sensitive ecosystems, and poison oak vegetation).
- Minimize environmental impacts of recreation on vegetation, wildlife and cultural features through the use of trails, stairs, fences and tent platforms.
- Ensure park facilities such as trails, toilets and campsites are located and constructed to be in keeping with the natural, visual and auditory values of the park.
- Allow for natural restoration of native vegetation in the former camping area on the isthmus.
- Continue to provide a well and water pump for the use of park visitors, provided safe drinking water standards are being met. Update park information and signage (e.g., maps) to reflect the location of campsites on the peninsula. Maintain the 'pack-in pack-out' garbage policy. Advise visitors, through signs and park hosts, to take their garbage with them when they leave the park. Signage discouraging the use of composting toilets to dispose of garbage will be erected.

Boating and Kayaking

DeCourcy Island, as with other Gulf Islands, provides excellent opportunities for all types of boating including power boating, sailing, yachting, canoeing and ocean kayaking. This is due to a variety of factors such as natural scenery, safe anchorage, a secluded atmosphere, upland recreational opportunities, wildlife for viewing, cultural values, and coastal landscape features particularly sandy beaches. Within the park, Pirates Cove is well-used by power and sail boaters for overnight anchorage. It is not unusual to see 45 to 50 boats per night anchored in the cove on weekends in the summer. The south cove (called Brother XII Cove) also provides a good anchorage although it is less sheltered and tends to attract more kayakers than boaters. Since 1986, members of the Maple Bay Yacht Club have acted as volunteer hosts in this park communicating information about park regulations to visitors.

Objectives:

1. To provide opportunities for recreational boaters to safely anchor boats or land kayaks in the park.
2. To provide appropriate facilities to support overnight use of the park by boaters and kayakers.
3. To maintain water quality within the foreshore and limit the impacts of boaters on the marine environment including benthic ecosystems in anchoring areas.
4. To stress marine safety and enhancement of environmental quality as part of educational programs aimed at boaters and kayakers.

Strategies:

- Focus anchoring activities in Pirates Cove. Encourage use of the south cove beaches by kayakers.
- Maintain and upgrade as required a maximum of two dinghy docks in Pirates Cove – one on either side of the cove – to facilitate access to the shore.
- Whenever possible, maintain a park host float in Pirates Cove for use by the hosting club when actively conducting hosting duties.
- Continue to provide stern tie-rings within Pirates Cove to facilitate safe anchorage.
- Provide a kayak storage structure at the south beach to provide a location for kayakers to store boats overnight while camping on the peninsula.
- Monitor use of Pirates Cove by boaters and review options for managing use if overcrowding becomes a concern with the boating community.
- Educate boaters about activities that have a negative impact on the marine environment (e.g., dumping of holding tanks – see also section on Coastal and Marine Values).
- Ensure signs and information kiosks on shore inform visitors arriving by boat and kayak about park facilities and policies, and of the overall marine park system so as to distribute use to other nearby marine parks, when necessary.
- Monitor impacts from anchoring on benthic ecosystems and review options if significant impacts are identified.

Hiking and Day-Use

The park offers day-use and picnicking areas, swimming beaches, and 4 km of hiking trails suitable for users of all skill levels. There are many opportunities for studying native flora, admiring coastal features and formations, and observing birds and wildlife in their natural setting. These opportunities will be maintained and managed according to the objectives and strategies outlined below.

Objectives:

1. To maintain opportunities for recreational day-use and hiking that are in keeping with the park vision and natural setting.
2. To provide facilities to support low impact day-use activities.

Strategies:

- Ensure all day-use opportunities are consistent with the park vision for low-key, low impact use in a natural setting.
- Maintain the existing trail network.
- Provide composting toilets to support both day- and overnight-use.
- Mitigate the environmental impacts of trail use on areas adjacent to trails by discouraging new trails and off-trail activities and restoring vegetation that has been significantly damaged.
- Given the small size of the park and the fragility of some of the ecosystems, prohibit the use of mountain bikes and horses on park trails.
- Harden and define trails adjacent to sensitive areas with protective materials (e.g., in the area of archaeological middens) to minimize soil erosion and compaction.
- Provide appropriate information, at key locations, about the park's designated trails and features of interest.

Camping

Camping at Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is primarily a summer activity although campsites are open year-round. Camping has historically occurred in both the lowland and upland areas of the park. Tent platforms were first installed in 2001 to formalize campsites and minimize damage to soil and vegetation. In keeping with the vision and objectives described elsewhere in the plan, the concept plan (Appendix A) calls for campsites to be concentrated on the peninsula (completed March 2002).

Objectives:

1. To provide camping opportunities in designated areas (completed March 2002) in a manner that ensures the park's ecological and cultural values are protected.
2. To formalize campsites (completed March 2002) to minimize damage to soil and vegetation.
3. To monitor the use of campsites in the park to determine if supply meets demand.

Strategies:

- Remove campsites and picnic tables from the isthmus (completed March 2002) to provide a separation between private property and overnight use of the park. Following removal of the campsites this area will be restored to a natural state.
- Develop campsites on the first ridge of the peninsula near the existing sites (completed March 2002).
- Review the need for group camping facilities at Pirates Cove in the context of the ability of the regional marine park system to meet demand. Communicate that Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park offers limited camping opportunities for large groups.
- Continue to prohibit fires in the park.
- Maintain the water pump to provide water for campers and day-users, provided safe drinking water standards are met.
- Monitor camping areas to estimate use and identify any adverse environmental or social impacts.

Fishing and Marine Harvesting

Recreational oyster harvesting exists at Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park and crabs are fished with traps in the foreshore. Harvesting of clams within the park is currently closed. Surrounding waters are considered moderately important for recreational fishing for species such as salmon, herring, rockfish and shrimp.

Objectives:

1. To continue to allow recreational fishing and oyster harvesting within the foreshore of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.
2. To work with other agencies to manage any impacts associated with recreational fishing and oyster harvesting within Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park and the associated foreshore.

Strategies:

- Continue to allow recreational fishing, crabbing and the harvesting of oysters along the beaches and foreshore of the park in accordance with provincial and federal licensing and regulations.
- In conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, monitor fish and other marine species, over time, to assess whether changes in regulations are required.

Commercial Recreational Use

The Environmental Stewardship Division has, over the years, granted park use permits to commercial companies wishing to provide recreational services at Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. The types of commercial services currently offered include guided kayak trips (day trips and overnight use) and marine charters. Some concerns have been expressed about the park's ability to accommodate large groups.

Objectives:

1. To ensure licensed commercial companies only offer services that are in keeping with the vision of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.
2. To keep the licensing of commercial companies to within the social and environmental carrying capacities of the park.
3. To develop a regional strategy, in cooperation with associated agencies and communities, addressing the management of commercial recreation use in the Gulf Islands.

Strategies:

- Require all commercial operators to obtain a park use permit. Permits will only be issued to operators whose activities are consistent with the vision statement.
- Require commercial operators to report on the number of day and overnight trips made to the park.
- Monitor changes in the use of the park by commercial groups.
- Communicate to commercial operators the park's inability to support large groups.
- Due to the size of the park and its sensitive ecosystems, consider limiting the number and type of commercial operators in the future if monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts to the experience and/or environment.

Information Strategy

Information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park will serve a number of functions. In-park interpretation and information will help create public awareness of and respect for the natural and cultural values of the park. Additionally, through marketing and promotion, the Environmental Stewardship Division can make available information to help visitors plan their trip to the park and educate them in advance about park values, available facilities and services, and regulations.

Interpretation

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park provides the Environmental Stewardship Division with an opportunity to deliver a number of key messages. These include: the natural and cultural history of the island; the role of the Environmental Stewardship Division in conserving and protecting special places; and the importance of public involvement in the establishment and stewardship of protected areas. Interpretive services in the park will be delivered primarily through non-personal information mediums such as in-park signage and brochures and off-site use of the World Wide Web. However, the use of volunteers and island residents will also help in the relaying of key messages, particularly those relating to visitor safety and fire management.

Objectives:

1. To provide park visitors information that clearly articulates the vision, roles and history of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.
2. To provide visitors with information that will enhance their respectful use and enjoyment of the park's natural, cultural and recreational features.
3. To promote education and conservation through increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park.
4. To instill a sense of stewardship in those who use the park.
5. To advise park visitors of safety issues and appropriate terrestrial and marine-based activities.

Strategies:

- Provide important park information such as regulations, public safety notices and emergency contacts on site.
- Use the BC Parks' website to deliver pre-trip information about the park.
- Information will ensure the delivery of clear messaging regarding marine conservation and safety, low impact camping and park use, and the 'No Fires' policy.
- Provide clear information, by way of maps, about the sensitive areas of the park and the location of accepted recreational activities.
- Use the results of research programs to provide information to park visitors so as to enhance their environmental awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park.

Marketing and Promotion

The natural environment of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park has the potential to attract visitors despite limited access. The park has long been a stopping point for many boaters travelling up and down the Strait of Georgia. Some of these visits are classified as day trips however; many destination travellers remain at the park for several days. Guided trips to Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park are also available for individuals who do not have their own water craft. Given the profile of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park and its popularity with boaters, excessive marketing and promotion will not be beneficial to the park or park visitors.

Objectives:

1. To provide current information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park to people planning to visit the park.
2. To ensure any marketing and promotion are consistent and appropriate to maintain the experience of solitude and peacefulness.
3. To highlight the marine park system as a whole, and the role of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park as one small part of a larger network of coastal and marine sites.

Strategies:

- Work cooperatively with the local and regional tourism agencies to provide adequate and appropriate information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park and the southern Gulf Islands marine park system.
- Keep up-to-date information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park on the BC Parks' website. Ensure this information articulates the limited number of campsites, level of service, and limited anchorage available at this park.

Other Agency and Stakeholder Involvement

First Nations, other government agencies, local residents and the general public all have an interest in Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park. To maintain good working relationships and resolve conflicting interests, it is imperative that these groups are involved in and informed of management decisions. The following sections address mechanisms for involvement and communication with affected parties.

Other Agency Involvement

It is important to have a good working relationship between the Environmental Stewardship Division and other agencies including local, regional, provincial and federal governments. Federal government agencies that have an interest in the park include Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding marine values and emergency response. In addition to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, other provincial agencies include the Ministry of Forests regarding fire management, the Heritage Resources Branch regarding archaeological sites, and the Ministry of Transportation regarding the adjacent road. Local and regional government agencies include the Islands Trust and the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Objectives:

1. To work cooperatively with other provincial agencies and levels of government to ensure park values are protected.

Strategies:

- Continue to communicate with other agencies and levels of government in matters respecting fire management, natural values management, cultural values management and recreational use.
- Communicate the objectives and strategies of the management plan with the Islands Trust and participate in initiatives related to the DeCourcy Island OCP and the management of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

Public Participation

Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is highly valued by DeCourcy Island residents, the boating community, and the broader public. Many opportunities exist for their participation in determining management decisions and actions. In particular, the DeCourcy Island community desires a greater role in the future operation of the park. Other interest groups, such as yacht clubs and commercial users, can also contribute through volunteer/stewardship opportunities.

Objectives:

1. To work cooperatively with the local community and interest groups to ensure that park values are protected.
2. To provide opportunities for direct public involvement in determining management decisions affecting the park.
3. To foster opportunities for volunteer initiatives and activities that benefit the park by educating visitors and protecting important park values.

4. To ensure that any management initiatives contemplated within the park consider the values and concerns of the neighbouring community.

Strategies:

- Maintain ongoing dialogue with the DeCourcy Island community to maintain good relations and discuss concerns associated with visitor use or day-to-day operation of the park.
- Liaise on a regular basis with groups representing recreational users of the park to ensure that park management decisions are consistent with the park vision and user expectations.
- Liaise on a regular basis with DeCourcy Island Community Association representatives, island property holders, and other stakeholders to provide a venue for ongoing discussions relating to the management of the park.
- Seek cooperation from the DeCourcy Island community in establishing a stewardship program for the park.

5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The management plan is intended to guide the planning, management and operation of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park for the foreseeable future. This plan is without prejudice to ongoing treaty negotiations between First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia. As new information becomes available or conditions and trends change, amendments to the plan may be required. In the event that the Environmental Stewardship Division feels the overall direction for the management and planning of the park needs to change substantially from the approved management plan, a formal review of the plan with full public, stakeholder, and local government consultation will ensue.

The implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Environmental Stewardship Division Regional Manager for Vancouver Island, who will ensure the various management responsibilities are carried out in accordance with the *Park Act* and its regulations. Implementation of actions outlined in this management plan is dependent on the availability of financial and staff resources, and will be affected by the needs of other parks in the Vancouver Island Region and in the rest of the provincial parks system. Approval of this plan does not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation. There will be opportunities for community and/or corporate sponsorship to undertake the implementation of some of the actions that appear in this plan. All proposed activities are subject to the agency's Impact Assessment Process and to regular review by Environmental Stewardship Division staff to ensure that the vision of this management plan is being followed.

To facilitate implementation according to priorities defined by the vision and roles of the park, the management strategies have been divided into three categories: 1) *High Priority*; 2) *Task or Project Oriented*; and 3) *Ongoing or Monitoring*. *High Priority* strategies highlight strategies that require attention in the immediate or near future. *Task or Project Oriented* strategies are specific or discrete works or projects that will be reviewed in accordance with annual budgets and staff work plans. *Ongoing or Monitoring* strategies describe those strategies that require ongoing attention or specific monitoring programs.

High Priority Strategies

Park Boundary

- Extend the boundary of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park to include additional foreshore out to approximately 100 metres (see dashed line on Figure 2). When incorporated into the park, the foreshore will be zoned *Natural Environment* and the new park boundary will be delineated in marine park brochures, in-park information, and on marine charts.

Fire Management

- Relocate camping facilities to take advantage of the natural firebreak provided by the low-lying fen (completed March 2002).
- Develop a protocol agreement with island residents for emergency access into the park, which will include a provision to provide a key to the pin gate should fire suppression be required.

Vegetation

- Allow for the natural restoration of native vegetation in the area near the park's western boundary following the removal of campsites. Where necessary, provide temporary fencing until new growth has established.

Coastal and Marine Values

- Obtain surrounding foreshore, out to approximately 100 metres, for inclusion in Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park (See also Park Boundary section).
- Maintain voluntary guidelines regarding 'No Dumping' of holding tanks or any other contaminant. Pursue further protection through federal regulations regarding sewage discharge.

Visitor Use and Facilities – General Direction

- Restore native vegetation in the former camping area on the isthmus.

Camping

- Remove campsites and picnic tables from the isthmus to provide a separation between private property and overnight use of the park (completed March 2002). Following removal of the campsites, this area will be restored to a natural state.
- Develop campsites on the first ridge of the peninsula near the existing sites (completed March 2002).

Interpretation

- Provide clear information, by way of maps, about the sensitive areas of the park and the location of accepted recreational activities.

Public Involvement

- Liaise on a regular basis with DeCourcy Island Community Association representatives, island property holders, and other stakeholders to provide a venue for ongoing discussions relating to the management of the park.

Task or Project Strategies

Park Boundary

- Erect signage at access points to better define where the park ends and private property begins.

Fire Management

- Continue to implement, and update as appropriate, the 2000 *Fire Management Plan* in light of the recommendations of this management plan, and develop a strategy for reducing vegetation fuel loads within the park (e.g., removal of wooded debris, limbing of downed trees).
- Communicate information to visitors about the risks of fire on unserviced islands. This may include, for example, fire prevention signage near campsites or pre-trip information outlining the consequences of an escaped campfire on the park and adjacent properties.
- Engage park hosts and volunteers from the island community in a program to educate park users and island residents about a 'No Fires' policy on DeCourcy Island.

Vegetation

- Complete a vegetation inventory to identify and map plant communities including rare, endangered or sensitive species and communities.
- Prepare a *Vegetation Management Plan* that will identify specific management strategies based on the findings of the vegetation inventory and mapping. The *Vegetation Management Plan* should address issues such as: the historic role of fire and implications of suppression; restoration of disturbed sites; control of invasive or exotic species; management of insects and disease; protection of sensitive, rare or endangered species and communities; and enhancement of forest diversity to improve wildlife habitat and aesthetic values.
- In areas that have been degraded due to overuse, consider temporarily closing trails or fencing off areas to allow for natural revegetation.
- Develop public awareness programs to foster respect for the park's vegetation and natural processes.

Wildlife

- Where appropriate, implement wildlife habitat enhancement projects.
- Develop public awareness programs to foster respect for wildlife and encourage low impact viewing and appreciation.

Geological Values

- Identify geological features that are vulnerable to disturbance and manage access to these areas if required.

Coastal and Marine Values

- Complete an inventory of marine vegetation and wildlife to determine management strategies required for their protection.
- Monitor benthic communities in anchorage areas to identify the impacts associated with anchoring and, if necessary, develop strategies for mitigation.
- Conduct regular water quality monitoring in conjunction with other provincial or federal agencies.
- Cooperate with and support other processes that will improve or maintain water quality within and adjacent to the park.
- Encourage proper water use, sewage and garbage disposal procedures through an information program.
- Inform park visitors of regulations regarding the harvesting of marine life through signage.

First Nations Cultural Values

- Develop appropriate management, information and education strategies through discussions with First Nations to ensure the long-term protection of archaeological sites within the park.
- Conduct further research and assess First Nations archaeological resources for education, scientific and protective purposes.

Non-Aboriginal Values

- Develop low-key interpretive information regarding the park's recent history and significant cultural features.

Visitor Use and Facilities – General Direction

- Update park information and signage (e.g., maps) to reflect the relocation of campsites to the peninsula.

Boating and Kayaking

- Provide a kayak storage structure at the south beach to provide a location for kayakers to store boats overnight while camping on the peninsula.
- Ensure signs and information kiosks on shore inform visitors arriving by boat and kayak about park facilities and policies, and of the overall marine park system so as to distribute use to other nearby marine parks, when necessary.

Hiking and Day-Use

- Provide appropriate information, at key locations, about the park's designated trails and features of interest.

Marketing and Promotion

- Keep up-to-date information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park on the BC Parks' website. Ensure this information articulates the limited number of campsites, level of service, and limited anchorage available at this park.

Other Agency Involvement

- Communicate the objectives and strategies of the management plan with the Islands Trust and participate in initiatives related to the DeCourcy Island OCP and the management of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

Ongoing or Monitoring Strategies

Fire Management

- Continue to prohibit fires in the park.
- Collaborate with DeCourcy Island residents to maintain coordinated fire prevention measures for the entire island. Participate in discussion forums with the Ministry of Forests and island residents regarding fire response planning.

Vegetation

- Manage the coastal bluff sensitive ecosystem (zoned *Special Feature*) to be consistent with the *Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory Conservation Manual*, including discouraging recreational access, use and development within this area.
- Protect sensitive or unique vegetation communities (e.g., poison oak) from the adverse impacts of recreational use by locating trails away from these areas and discouraging access through the use of natural barriers or fencing where appropriate.
- Promote only low impact recreational use. Use tent platforms (completed March 2002) to minimize impacts on soil and vegetation and direct recreational use away from sensitive areas.
- Monitor and manage the introduction and spread of invasive plant species such as Scotch broom, spurge-laurel, English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and English holly.

² McPhee, M., P. Ward, J. Kirkby, L. Worffe, N. Page, K. Dunster, N.K. Dawe and I. Nykwiist. 2000. *Sensitive Ecosystems Inventory: East Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands, 1993-1997. Volume 2: Conservation Manual*. Technical Report Series No. 345, Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon Region, BC.

- Retain dead and decaying trees for wildlife habitat except in situations where there is a threat to the safety of visitors or park facilities. In accordance with the Environmental Stewardship Division *Hazard Tree Policies*, before removing large trees that might pose a threat to public safety, consider alternatives such as re-directing public use.
- Encourage and support research activities to better understand natural values and processes. All research activities will be controlled with a park use permit.

Wildlife

- Maintain habitat values for native species within the park through vegetation management strategies (identified in the *Vegetation Management Plan*) and controls on recreational use.
- Retain dead and decaying trees for wildlife except in situations where there is a threat to the safety of visitors or park facilities.
- Continue to prohibit hunting and trapping in the park.
- Ensure public awareness and enforcement of dogs on leash within the park.
- Minimize the impacts of recreational activities and facilities on wildlife by locating facilities (e.g., trails and campsites) away from sensitive habitats and encouraging only low impact activities such as hiking on trails.
- Cooperate and establish common objectives with other government agencies, First Nations, interest groups and the public to manage wildlife.
- Encourage and support research activities to better understand wildlife and their habitat requirements. All research activities will be controlled with a park use permit.

Coastal and Marine Values

- Allow coastal processes to occur such as the accumulation of driftwood on beaches.
- Ensure facilities such as docks, floats and pilings are not constructed from creosote-treated lumber, which can have serious long-term impacts on wildlife.
- Work with holders of the water lot lease to mitigate any potential impacts of the use of the lease area on the waters within Pirates Cove.
- Work with other provincial and federal agencies to manage impacts to the park foreshore from outside uses and from activities occurring within the park (e.g., commercial crab trapping).

Inholdings and Other Tenures

- To work with Land and Water British Columbia and leaseholders in the management of water lot leases.
- To ensure future foreshore expansions or uses of Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park do not impede navigational access to the water lot lease.

First Nations Cultural Values

- Establish and maintain a working relationship with local First Nations people and involve First Nations in discussions regarding management activities adjacent to archaeological sites.
- Maintain a record of archaeological values and sites located within the park.
- Implement protective measures near archaeological sites as recommended through discussions with First Nations. Protective measures include locating trails and facilities to avoid culturally sensitive areas. Where culturally sensitive areas cannot be avoided, trails will be well defined and visitors will be directed to remain on these designated trails.
- Conduct impact assessments when constructing or relocating facilities.
- Ensure that research relating to archaeological sites has the involvement of First Nations peoples and the Heritage Conservation Branch, and is conducted under a *Heritage Conservation Act* permit and park use permit.

Recent Historic Values

- Monitor impacts to historical features that are associated with park use (e.g., vandalism or souvenir collection).

Aesthetic Values

- Work cooperatively with other agencies and surrounding landowners to minimize the visual and auditory impacts to park users resulting from activities occurring outside of the park.
- In keeping with park zoning objectives, situate trails, day-use areas and campsites to take full advantage of viewing opportunities in areas that do not compromise significant natural values.
- Where feasible, design, construct and maintain facilities so that they are in harmony with the natural park setting. For example, when economically feasible, use natural materials that blend in with the surrounding environment.

Visitor Use and Facilities - General Direction

- Manage recreation use in conjunction with the park's zoning plan so that natural and cultural values are minimally affected.
- Locate facilities and trails in a manner that diverts use away from sensitive natural, cultural and special features (e.g., archaeological sites, coastal bluff sensitive ecosystems, and poison oak vegetation).
- Minimize environmental impacts of recreation on vegetation, wildlife and cultural features through the use of trails, stairs, fences and tent platforms.
- Ensure park facilities such as trails, toilets and campsites are located and constructed to be in keeping with the natural, visual and auditory values of the park.

- Continue to provide a well and water pump for the use of park visitors, provided safe drinking water standards are being met.
- Maintain the 'pack-in pack-out' garbage policy. Advise visitors, through signs and park hosts, to take their garbage with them when they leave the park. Signage discouraging the use of composting toilets to dispose of garbage will be erected.

Boating and Kayaking

- Focus anchoring activities in Pirates Cove. Encourage use of the south cove beaches by kayakers.
- Maintain and upgrade as required a maximum of two dinghy docks in Pirates Cove – one on either side of the cove – to facilitate access to the shore.
- Whenever possible, maintain a park host float in Pirates Cove for use by the hosting club when actively conducting hosting duties.
- Continue to provide stern tie-rings within Pirates Cove to facilitate safe anchorage.
- Monitor use of Pirates Cove by boaters and review options for managing use if overcrowding becomes a concern with the boating community.
- Educate boaters about activities that have a negative impact on the marine environment (e.g., dumping of holding tanks – see also section on Coastal and Marine Values).
- Monitor impacts from anchoring on benthic ecosystems and review options if significant impacts are identified.

Hiking and Day-Use

- Ensure all day-use opportunities are consistent with the park vision for low-key, low impact use in a natural setting.
- Maintain the existing trail network.
- Provide composting toilets to support both day- and overnight use.
- Mitigate the environmental impacts of trail use on areas adjacent to trails by discouraging new trails and off-trail activities and restoring vegetation that has been significantly damaged.
- Given the small size of the park and the fragility of some of the ecosystems, prohibit the use of mountain bikes and horses on park trails.
- Harden and define trails adjacent to sensitive areas with protective materials (e.g., in the area of archaeological middens) to minimize soil erosion and compaction.

Camping

- Review the need for group camping facilities at Pirates Cove in the context of the ability of the regional marine park system to meet demand. Communicate that Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park offers limited camping opportunities for large groups.
- Continue to prohibit fires in the park.
- Maintain the water pump to provide water for campers and day-users, provided safe drinking water standards are met.
- Monitor camping areas to estimate use and identify any adverse environmental or social impacts.

Fishing and Marine Harvesting

- Continue to allow recreational fishing, crabbing and the harvesting of oysters along the beaches and foreshore of the park in accordance with provincial and federal licensing and regulations.
- In conjunction with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, monitor fish and other marine species, over time, to assess whether changes in regulations are required.

Commercial Recreational Use

- Require all commercial operators to obtain a park use permit. Permits will only be issued to operators whose activities are consistent with the vision statement.
- Require commercial operators to report on the number of day and overnight trips made to the park.
- Monitor changes in the use of the park by commercial groups.
- Communicate to commercial operators the park's inability to support large groups.
- Due to the size of the park and its sensitive ecosystems, consider limiting the number and type of commercial operators in the future if monitoring indicates unacceptable impacts to the experience and/or environment.

Interpretation

- Provide important park information such as regulations, public safety notices and emergency contacts on site.
- Use the BC Parks' website to deliver pre-trip information about the park.
- Information will ensure the delivery of clear messaging regarding marine conservation and safety, low impact camping and park use, and the 'No Fires' policy.
- Use the results of research programs to provide information to park visitors so as to enhance their environmental awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the park.

Marketing and Promotion

- Work cooperatively with the local and regional tourism agencies to provide adequate and appropriate information about Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park.

Other Agency Involvement

- Continue to communicate with other agencies and levels of government in matters respecting fire management, natural values management, cultural values management and recreational use.

Public Involvement

- Maintain ongoing dialogue with the DeCourcy Island community to maintain good relations and discuss concerns associated with visitor use or day-to-day operation of the park.
- Liaise on a regular basis with groups representing recreational users of the park to ensure that park management decisions are consistent with the park vision and user expectations.
- Seek cooperation from DeCourcy Island community in establishing a stewardship program for the park.

This page intentionally left blank.

Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Appendix A
Park Concept
Plan



Ministry of Water,
Land and Air
Protection

This page intentionally left blank.

Park Concept Plan for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park

The concept plan for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park is shown in Figure 3. The concept plan was developed with consideration of public input received throughout the management planning process. The principles underlying the concept plan are:

- Present and future development of the park must be consistent with the park vision statement;
- The conservation of the park's natural and cultural values must not be compromised by the provision of recreational opportunities;
- The park will support low impact day-use, overnight boating and camping activities within the scope and level described in the management plan;
- The concept plan should aim to avoid disturbances to other park values, reduce risks associated with fire, and minimize conflicts among parks users and between park users and the island community; and
- No formal day-use facilities will be provided. Unused picnic tables located in designated camping areas may be used for day-use.

The concept plan includes provision of the facilities described below. It represents the desirable type and level of facilities for the park as identified during preparation of the management plan. The concept plan should be reviewed, as appropriate, should the park management plan require updating in the future in light of changing park conditions and use.

Walk-in Campsites

- Walk-in campsites will be concentrated along the first ridge of the peninsula near the south cove. Existing campsites and picnic tables will be removed from the southwest portion of the park, on the isthmus, and this area will be allowed to return to a natural state. (Note: This task was completed March 2002).
- The Environmental Stewardship Division will monitor the implications of reducing the number of campsites in the park and may, in the future and with input from the public, investigate opportunities to provide additional campsites on the peninsula.

Boating Facilities

- Stern tie-rings will be provided along both sides of Pirates Cove for use by boaters.
- Two dinghy docks will be provided – one on either side of the cove to facilitate access to the shore by boaters.

- For the duration of the Marine Park Host program, the park host float will remain for use by appointed park hosts that are actively performing hosting duties in the park. Signage denoting the purpose and appropriate use of this float should be communicated.

Trails

- A network comprising approximately 4 km of trails will be maintained. Additional trails will not be developed.
- Informal, non-designated trails and trails extending into *Special Feature* zones will be closed and the areas rehabilitated.

Other Day-use Facilities

- Composting toilets will be provided on the isthmus and on the north side of the peninsula.
- One freshwater pump will continue to be provided to serve park users, provided safe drinking water standards are met.
- Garbage disposal facilities and collection services will not be provided. A pack-in/pack-out garbage policy will continue to apply.

Interpretive Facilities

- Existing information kiosks will remain and information will be updated to reflect the park concept and other relevant components of the management plan.
- Low-key unobtrusive signage may be provided at key locations to communicate appropriate information about the park's designated trails and features of interest.
- Signs informing visitors about the 'No Fires' policy, and other regulations, will be provided.
- Signs that more clearly communicate the boundary between the park and public property will be erected in consultation with the DeCourcy Island community.

Pirates Cove Provincial Marine Park

Figure 3

Park Development Concept

LEGEND

- Stern Te Rings
- Campsites
- Self-Registration
- Info
- Plaque
- Toilet
- Well
- Dinghy Float

Stairs

Trails

Road

Park Boundary

Proposed Foreshore Boundary (~100m)

Steep Cliff

Vegetation

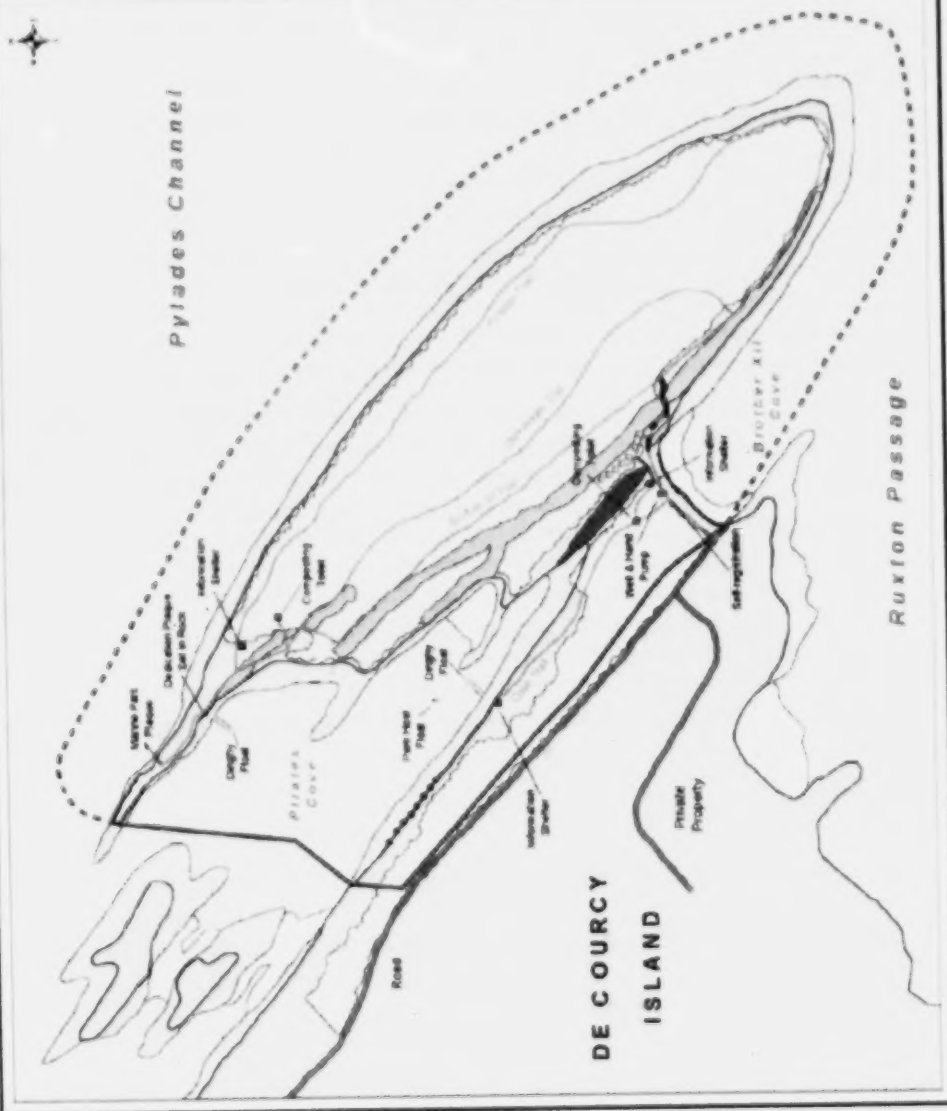
Swamp

Cliff

Sand



March 2002



This page intentionally left blank.

Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Appendix B
Public Consultation
Process



Ministry of Water,
Land and Air
Protection

This page intentionally left blank.

Public Consultation Process for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park Management Plan

The management planning process for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park was initiated in August 2001. The firm of AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd. was retained to develop the plan and oversee a process for receiving public input. The key elements of the public consultation program are described below.

Announcement

Upon project initiation, a list of potential stakeholders and interest groups was prepared (Box 1).

Government

Environmental Stewardship Division
BC Environment (Fish and Wildlife)
Ministry of Transportation
BC Assets and Lands
Heritage Resources Branch
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Parks Canada
Snuneymuxw [Nanaimo] First Nation
Lyackson First Nation
Chemainus First Nation
Islands Trust
Nanaimo Regional District

Boat Clubs

Council of BC Yacht Clubs
Marine Parks Forever Society
Maple Bay Yacht Club
Ladysmith Yacht Club
West Vancouver Yacht Club
Royal Victoria Yacht Club
Kitsilano Yacht Club
Canadian Forces Sailing Association
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
Bluewater Cruising Association
Sidney and North Saanich Yacht Club
Nanaimo Yacht Club
Burrard Yacht Club
Cruising Club/Capital City Yacht Club
Gulf Island Cruiser
Cowichan Power and Sail Squadron

Charters/Boat Tours

Nanaimo Yacht Charters/Sailing School
Silverblue Charters
Aradheena Cruises
Ocean River Sports
Crownment Sailing
Bluewater Adventures
Bastion City Charters

Island Residents

Decourcy Island Community Association
Decourcy Island Property Holders
Decourcy Island Estates

Kayaking Associations/Clubs

Sea Kayak Association of BC
Garry Backland (author of guidebooks)
Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club
Nanaimo Paddlers
Pacific Fleet Kayak Club
Victoria Sea Kayakers Association
Vancouver Kayak Club
Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club
Cowichan Kayak and Canoe Club
North Island Paddle Association
Ocean Kayak Association of BC

Kayak Rentals/Tours

Sea Kayak Guides Association of BC
Wild at Heart Kayaking
Into the Current
EcoWest Adventures
Galiano Island Sea Kayaking
Ocean West Expeditions
Pacific Northwest Expeditions
Sealegs Kayaks and Marine Adventures
Wilderness Kayaking
Gabriola Cycle and Kayak
Casa Blanca B&B and Kayak Rentals
Great Canadian Adventure Company

Other

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
Gabriola Ratepayers Association
Gabriola Historical and Museum Society

Individuals

Via signs/comment boxes in park
Via public meeting November 17, 2001

All identified stakeholders received a letter, fax or email announcing the initiation of the planning process and inviting their participation. Additionally, an announcement was placed in several local newspapers.

Site Reconnaissance

A site reconnaissance was undertaken on September 5, 2001. The consultant was given a tour of the park by two members of the DeCourcy Island Community Association: Mr. Don Moss and Mr. John Nayler. Various site-specific issues and concerns were discussed. Following the tour of the park, the consultant was introduced to DeCourcy Island property owners who were present on the island at that time.

Signage and Comment Box

Two signs were erected in the park identifying the key issues to be considered during the planning process and identifying a contact name for those wishing to provide input. One of the signs was placed in proximity to an existing comment box. Comments collected from the box were forwarded to the consultant for consideration.

Personal Communications

Throughout the process, the consultant personally contacted numerous individuals and interest groups to share information about the planning process, seek input, and follow-up on comments that had been received.

Assembly of Issues

All comments received, both written and oral, throughout the planning process were reviewed and consolidated into a single issues summary (Table A-1).

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on Saturday, November 17, 2001 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress in developing a management plan for the park, hear more about the issues that had been identified, and discuss possible options for the future of the park, including a long-term vision and options for facilities. In addition to consultants and Environmental Stewardship Division staff, the meeting was attended by eleven DeCourcy Island property holders, nine members of the boating community, and one representative from the Islands Trust. Minutes of the meeting are provided in Appendix C.

Circulation of Draft Park Vision

A draft vision statement was circulated to participants at the November 17 public meeting and subsequently distributed to other stakeholders on the project mailing list as part of the meeting minutes. A comment form was included to provide a mechanism for feedback on the draft vision.

Circulation of Draft Park Management Plan

The draft management plan was circulated for public review and comment in February 2002. All comments received were considered and best efforts were made to address all outstanding issues.

Table A-1: Management Plan for Pirate's Cove Marine Park, Summary of Public Comments

The comments which follow have been summarized from written or verbal feedback from members of the public. These comments have been collected as part of the process of developing a management plan for Pirates Cove Provincial Marine Park, which was initiated in August 2001. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the project consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.

Issue	Summary of Comments
Boundary	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • The Environmental Stewardship Division could identify opportunities to acquire foreshore • The Environmental Stewardship Division should acquire other nearby areas as parks
Zoning	• A zoning plan for the whole of the park is needed • Zoning must reflect intended land uses • The alleged 'buffer zone' on west side of park should be formalized in the park's zoning
Fire Management and Protection	• Fire is a threat to the park and to private properties on the island; possible loss of life; implications for forests and wildlife on the island • The increased potential for fire would threaten the entire island • There is no fire department on the island nor do residents have sufficient water reservoirs or equipment to combat fires • Decourcy is totally unserviced and therefore extremely vulnerable • There is a need to minimize fire hazards and the risk of fire • Fire fighting crews and equipment are not readily available on the island • Signage regarding 'No Fires' is inadequate or ignored • Residents have in the past often noted large campfires on the beach, lit by campers who ignore requests to extinguish them • Do not ignore the increased possibility of an accidentally started, rapid spread fire resulting from the activities of increase number of campers (smoking, cooking) • Fire Control Survey (1979) and Fire Management Plan (2000) indicate that the highest fire hazard rating on the island occurs in the westerly 10-acre portion of the park • There is a need for the immediate removal or proper placement of brush forest debris on ground following any cutting or pruning of vegetation • Suggestion that the fen/lowland area be retained free of development as a natural fire break

Issue	Summary of Comments
Fire Management and Protection (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • Park users are sympathetic to resident concerns regarding fire; one commercial operator who responded educates his clients about fire regulations before the trip gets underway. Unfortunately, some people still ignore the rules. More signage and a fire warden (for education not enforcement) might help. • Some residents have the impression that the Ministry of Forests is somewhat reluctant to 'sign on the dotted line' and make firm recommendations or an assessment of fire risk • Fire is a concern of all people who spend time on the island, not just property owners - Perhaps where there is a beach with lots of drift wood there will always be the danger of fire • Suggestion that fires below the high tide line, during low fire risk times, should be allowed • Suggestions that all fires must be 15 feet below the high tide line, and none permitted if wind is present (this would be hard to regulate). Fires are certainly a nice feature if raining - perhaps only allow fires if raining • Need to post more 'No Fire' signs • No development should take place that jeopardizes the safety of Decourey Island • More signs and much larger fines would help • Current fines are 'laughable' • Kayakers need to be better educated about the risks of fire • Need closer supervision - perhaps the locals could do a fire patrol in addition to what the Park Hosts do • The risks of fire comes also from the residents • Risk of fire is not only from park user but increasingly from other island users • Suggestion that a ranger presence is needed on the busiest weekends • No large fires should be permitted • Kayakers are usually responsible • The park committee only a small part of the island - perhaps residents should form a volunteer fire brigade - fire is a danger all year round, not only during the summer • Suggestion to develop a pavilion with built-in BBQ pit • Must continue no fires policy and continue to ban open fires • Suggestion to prohibit smoking on the terrestrial section • Better enforcement of the fire regulations is needed • Increase in park staff or contractors to patrol all fires including campfires and cooking fires • Suggestion to designate a place to have a fire - perhaps below the high tide line or a pit

Issue	Summary of Comments
Fire Management and Protection (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> No fire policy should be enforced, no smoking on the land, more patrols to monitor activity. Consider resident chimney fires during winter season and prepare fire protection plan for all users
Park Use (General)	- Need to clarify the term 'development': picnic tables, tent platforms and outhouses do not constitute 'development' - The Environmental Stewardship Division should acquire and make public numerical data on current and predicted usage by boaters and kayakers prior to formulating a specific development plan - As the Island and the park are quite small, we would encourage you in your planning efforts to take a 'minimalist' approach: efforts should be made to discourage further growth of use of the park – it should be a park with few amenities - Given the delicate nature of the park's ecology, the small area in which campsites could possibly be placed, the high cost of building and servicing toilets, the questionable safety of drinking water and the unsuitability of the buffer zone for camping activity, we believe an independent impact study would conclude that Pirates Cove Marine Park use should be limited to daytime activities - The island and park are very popular during some weekends in June and September and throughout the months of July and August; during other time of the year they are hardly used - Fear that any change will detract from the existing charm of the park - Suggestion to move all facilities/service (including toilets and campsites) to peninsula portion of the park (for fire protection) - The low impact integrity of the park will be permanently altered by the increased volume of visitors - It is time to institute a system of monitoring the use of the park as it is often overloaded - Development of the park has occurred over time, encroaching into areas deemed to be inappropriate - development should be contained to the peninsula side of the park - Supportive of the development and expansion of services and facilities at Pirates Cove (from a resident) - No need for more facilities - Development has gone too far - Do not think anyone would appreciate any covered buildings for functions such as they have on Newcastle Island - Pirates Cove is a small and unique jewel currently being killed with kindness in an attempt to make it accessible to more users than it can support - Park must serve multiple users so cannot take out facilities and have a 'pristine' park - The present level of facilities is appropriate - People who live in the Nanaimo area should have access to our local Gulf Islands - Decourcy is within easy access of the local area and unfortunately not everyone has the right or privilege to own property on the island (from a resident) - The process of developing the management plan for Pirates Cove should not be bound by what was built prior to the initiation of this

Issue	Summary of Comments
Park Use (General) (Cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> process (there is a perception that that minimum consultation took place to get to this point) • Island resident kids are starting to use the trails on their dirt bikes and throwing toilet paper around • Commercial touring causes overuse unless controlled • Good manners and discretion needs to prevail • There has been an increase in noise, dogs from boats, generators, loud parties and commercial groups of kayak tours • Like the park the way it is and hope no major changes will be made in the future • The Province's recent activities at Pirates Cove has the property owners worried, both from a fire hazard perspective, the heavy use of a fragile ecological area, and the introduction of non-native materials • Apparently due to pressure from commercial kayak operators, the Parks Branch seems to have launched a development program to accommodate hundreds of overnight visitors by installing dozens of platforms, state of the art latrines and a whole host of modern 'inconveniences', without any regard to the wishes of some 160 property owners and without providing any fire, or police or other protection • Pressure for more parks with more facilities is being exerted but a small unserviced island is not the proper venue for borders of overnight visitors • Would like to see more low impact activities in the park, such as horseshoes and disc golf • If anything, there are too many intrusive developments already - the new toilets are really ugly • Enjoy 'natural feeling' of park and would hate to see docks and other 'improvements' - these would detract from existing charm • Ensure that facilities blend in with the natural setting (some people mentioned that they thought the recent changes made the park look too developed e.g., gravel trails, fencing, tent platforms) • Suggested relocation of some of the facilities (i.e., campsites and toilets) to the peninsula portion of the park • A general feeling that the recent changes to the park have made residents ask "what will they do next?" and "Is this pace of development going to continue until the park is completely over-developed?" • Concerns over campers and kayakers having fires, leaving garbage and the occasional rowdy behaviour • Campsites and pathways are designed to protect natural values: the paths indicate where people should walk in order to preserve the natural flora and the campsites indicate the appropriate sites for camping • Most of the users of the park are anchoring vessels, and it is great that kayakers are being well accommodated now • The park can be too crowded at times • Trail walking is enough - do not need to introduce new activities/facilities • There are enough facilities and amenities in the park • The facilities and amenities of the park are in good condition

Issue	Summary of Comments
Park Use (General) (Cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • Tents platforms and composting toilets are appropriate in this park • Do not want to see development spread out too far - its not a big area and need to retain natural attributes • In favour of no further development • Need to limit facilities to maintain the park in as natural state as possible • Current facilities are adequate (several similar responses) • Activities should be minimal and have no negative impact on the park; the park appears to have adequate opportunities for hiking, swimming, bird watching, etc.; the current level of these facilities is appropriate • The recent upgrades are great • Limit commercial use (50-100 people dropped off at once taxes the park) • Leave it as natural as possible • Kayaking and other marine sports are becoming more popular but Pirates Cove is only so large and cannot provide the area and services demanded by this growing number of users • Community values, concerns and park use will increase if recreational opportunities and facilities are increased, especially if the park lacks monitoring on a regular basis • This park was established for yachts to anchor and people to walk the peninsula. Heavy camping and day use by tour groups and others will spoil the park and its original intent. • History and nature should take precedence over human recreational activities. • Over the past years, we have watched first hand the rapid changes brought about by the increased use of DeCourcy Island by property owners and by visitors to the park. There are so many residences now on the island, with more being built each year that we can no longer just wander around and enjoy, without restriction, the island. The park becomes more important to each owner and resident each year. It is the place we now take our visitors so that they can get a glimpse of what the island is like. It is the place where I go to wander around and enjoy the area without intruding on my neighbors. So, I am very concerned with the end result is for the park.
Boating Use/Facilities	• Buoys and seaward off stern tie eyes would be more secure than anchors • Install mooring buoys / replace stern ties with mooring buoys to allow for safer anchoring and limit overcrowding (several responses from MBYC) • Install mooring buoys and institute fee for use, and limit use • Suggest mooring buoys off the beach on the SE corner of the island • Additional shore stern ties eyes to the east of the Park Host dock would be useful • Limit use of cove to vessels equipped with holding tanks

Issue	Summary of Comments
Boating Use/Facilities (Cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • The locals have built a huge marina to discourage public use of the park; their existing docks seem to contain only 6-10 boats but the facility is big enough for 50 • Consider dredging entrance to allow deeper draft passage at lower tides • Install a sewage pump out base • I think any reduction in the facilities as far as boaters are concerned would not be welcome. At the meeting November 17, 2001 the point was raised and it seemed to be generally agreed that it was desirable to maintain the numbers of boaters using the Cove at the same level as is currently possible due to the number of mooring rings available. I am concerned that some of these rings will be lost if the float on the west side is moved to the east side of the cove. I feel that any rings lost as a result should be installed on the west side. I feel mooring rings have very little impact on the 'buffer zone'. The existing mooring rings should be maintained and should be permitted to be replaced when they become unserviceable. • Concerned about the condition of the dinghy dock ramps in particular the one on west side - this was rotting and roped off, causing people to still use it to access the toilet • A limit of some sort should be put on the number of boats moored overnight during peak times • I would be interested in looking into the feasibility of mooring buoys in the two anchorages. This would have the benefit of limiting the number of boats in the anchorage and would decrease the damage to the ocean floor as people try to set their anchor. This would have an added safety benefit as the Cove gets quite windy and I have seen boats drag onto each other. • There is an increasing demand for kayaking and boating facilities • Require enforcement of holding tanks and still penalties for non-compliance • Concern that boaters without holding tanks might not be using shore toilet facilities and maybe dumping effluent into the cove - most are responsible, and campers appear to leave the park as they found it • Ever increasing number of boat visitors - anchorage is often over crowded and anchors drag, owners leave their vessels (both recreational visitors and visitors to people who live on the island) and Park Hosts have had to deal with potential dangerous situations with no boat owners in sight • The reef extending out into the cove itself should be marked for the safety of anchoring vessels • The dingy docks are great - similar ones should be built in several other parks especially Roscoe Bay and Tenedos Bay • The dock that is supposed to serve the cottagers on the island has taken a 'pretty big chunk' out of the available anchoring space but it is understandable that they have to have some place to tie up. However, we hope that there are no more outstanding waterlot leases in the cove where more docks will be installed • The bottom of the cove holds good for anchoring; stern tying is easy - let's leave it the way it is • Suggestion to remove Park Host float: the 'information float' in the middle of the marine park is, in effect an outstation for one yacht

Issue	Summary of Comments
Boating Use/Facilities (Cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> - club and frequently there are 4 or more boats rafted up to this float. Question the value of this 'outstation' - Location of Park Host float considerably reduces the area available for moorage - Suggestion to move dinghy dock on west side of the marine park to the east side to retain the 10-acre westerly portion of the park as a 'buffer zone' (see Covenant section below); current location of dinghy dock encourages boaters to walk through drier forest thus increasing fire risk; also, the current location of dinghy dock is wrong for safety reasons - Park Host float has been an eyesore and irritant for years. Why should one private club have preferred moorage at a floating dock in the middle of a marine park? - The safety and condition of some facilities is in question; e.g., both dinghy docks need to be upgraded - The yachting community does not abide by by-laws re wharves and moorage - Some animosity between yachting community and residents - The holding ground in the lagoon is poor, and when the really strong winds blow, either from the NW or SE, the boats at anchor, with their sterns to the shore, on a shore ring, are at right angles to the wind and they drag anchor - With regard to the ramp to the dinghy dock in the cove, it seems a waste of our scarce monies that an employee can take the trouble to go out there to place a yellow ribbon to restrict the public from using the dock, when what was needed was a knowledgeable crew with jacks, and a replacement cross member - Because of the failure to maintain the dinghy dock, visiting hikers were walking across the sensitive col between the lagoon and the south cove. This resulted in even more damage to the dyke. - Concern that the Park Hosts are not fulfilling a useful function in the park - In general in BC, small boaters are constantly being negatively affected by large power boats, large wakes, noise, fumes, jet skis, generators, etc.; Pirates Cove is really quite small and does not accommodate large vessels very well. If there is some way to exclude boats over 35 feet (or so), it would be most appropriate. Also, there is strong desire from many boaters to keep the small coves like Pirates as a "quiet park" where generators are not allowed. It would be really nice to have at least one marine park where large power boats cannot disturb everyone else in the Bay by running generators. These are very obtrusive devices which destroy the natural quiet attributes of a small area like this. BC does not have a single Marine Park devoted to maintaining the natural attributes of quiet and serenity. Pirates Cove is an excellent candidate for such management action. Why should these inconsiderate power boat types who can't live without 110 volts be able to destroy the serenity of every Marine Park on our coast? And believe me, they do - As far as a sheltered location is concerned, the cove is marginal because it is exposed to westerly winds - The park is very small, even outboard motors on dinghies are unnecessary - Dinghy docks are logical and necessary because the shoreline is steep - Mooring buoys are practical to allow more boats and are not obtrusive - What more do boaters need? The bay is there and we should treat it with care. The number of boaters will be limited, because it limits

Issue	Summary of Comments
Boating Use/Facilities (Cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> itself. Do not try to make it more complicated • Currently too many people using the area - more than it can sustain • One kayaker noticed this summer that more and bigger vessels are using the south beach which has traditionally been used mainly by kayakers. This beach is nicer, more sun, less crowds. Different types of users can coexist • Perception that upland owners' abuse of anchorage and dinghy docks • The anchorage in the cove has been developed to its maximum capacity with the installation of mooring rings around the perimeter shores. At times, 60 or more boats have been observed in the cove. Boaters spend most of their time on board, and exert minimal impact on the upland of the park (unlike campers) • The Park Host float is confusing; private boaters and kayakers do not understand what it is for and try to use it • The hosting and maintenance carried out by the Maple Bay Yacht Club over the years has been great - hope that the feature is continued • As a term of kayak companies' permits to use this park, we are all required to report any stop at Pirates Cove whether overnight or not. The Environmental Stewardship Division should have data on use of the park by kayakers, or else they need to follow-up with kayak companies that are not adequately reporting their use of the park.
Camping Use/Facilities	• Camping should be limited to a certain number of people - campers require more services • Concern that campers need ambulance or fire response, which are not offered on the island • Campers often fail to haul their garbage out (use toilets to dispose of garbage) • There are better locations for campsites than in 'buffer zone' • Removal of campsites will not necessarily preclude people camping • Overnight camping increases the likelihood of fire - is it responsible to place campsites in areas which exacerbate the threat of fire to the rest of the island? • Camping is generally on a first-come-first-served basis so sometimes people have to accept that they cannot camp where they want to. Some kayakers will not mind camping on ridge because of views. Lowland campsites are also in trees so you can't see your kayaks from your campsite anyway. Boats must be brought up near shoreline (on-top of logs). Would not haul boats up to ridge but does not see a big problem with leaving boats below. Very few problems with theft, although must take care to store food properly • Suggestion to relocate a minimum of 7 of the recently-built tent platforms to the peninsula section of the park • Campsites are currently too close to pathways • Camping in upland areas not practical • Suggestion to add Pirates Cove to reservation system • Concerns about further development of campgrounds (and further development at all) - The island is so fragile and the fire hazard so

Issue	Summary of Comments
Camping Use/Facilities (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> great that I feel the only area that should be accessible for tenters should be the peninsula. Then there could be a complete fire-break made on the isthmus that would secure the rest of the island from a fire. It is inevitable that such a campfire will occur as it is simple human nature and sometimes youthful inexperience, use of alcohol, somebody falling asleep, a little bit of wind, etc...and here goes a whole wonderful Gulf Island • It is fine to have a few (maybe 8) tent sites but there should be a reservation system and strict control - and only tenting on the peninsula • Suggestion to set a permanent limit on the number of campers in the park at any given time, and locate tent platforms for that number on the peninsula in a way that minimizes their impact on the natural area • The quantity of campsites should be limited • Constructing too many campsites allows for too many people camping in an unpatrolled environment at one time - This creates the possibilities of parties getting out of hand • Campers leave garbage - do not pack out what they pack in • Must ensure that campsites in the wooded area are set out so that the risk of fire is at an absolute minimum • Although recent changes may seem drastic, there is a need for them, e.g., tent platforms keep campers in certain areas and off the ground • Campers exert maximum impact on the park. They have filled the toilet in the camping area with garbage and human waste to the point where it became unusable and required the contents to be manually removed in 45- gallon drums • Developments must be removed from the 'buffer zone' and may be re-established on the peninsula. Facilities should be minimal and methods of limiting camping encouraged. • How will you determine what are 'appropriate activities', and where they will be provided. Some activities that are currently 'disputed' by some people are considered appropriate by others.
Day-Use Facilities	• The trails at Pirates Cove are presently very good, but it must puzzle persons coming out from the middle of it to maintain the trail, and then we leave the rest to rot (debris/slash?) • The fence that has been erected on the south side of the dyke is a good idea, but another one on the north side of the dyke might also be considered • The new toilets are unsightly and not a visual asset to the park • The trail system is perhaps the park's best asset • Suggest a display with information on the history of the island and available hiking trails on the island • Holding tanks of new toilets were already overtaxed this past summer • Suggest that Pirates Cove park would make a good venue/ideal location for a disc golf course; sport is low impact and costs little to maintain (3 separate emails)

Issue	Summary of Comments
Day-Use Facilities (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • A second composting toilet on the ridge would be very welcome • Suggestion of clearing a pathway through some of the logs that have built up on the beach. The buildup has resulted in less beach to enjoy, particularly at high-tide • New toilet facilities are excellent and will encourage the use by boaters • Need more toilet facilities (several responses) • The new toilets are a great improvement • The community values Pirates Cove park for its natural beauty and well-kept trails • Would like to see longer trails • Keep trails natural; no more trail widening or added gravel and remove massive wooden stairs at the SW end of the peninsula: the previous trail was more than adequate • Signs, trails and toilets should be unobtrusive (unlike the widened trails and two-story toilets) developed this past summer • Re garbage cans: everywhere else the kayak community paddles there is a 'pack it out' policy, and this holds true for trips that are in some cases 10 days long (as opposed to a trip to Pirates Cove which is likely much shorter). I don't think garbage facilities are a need at all. Perhaps instead signage could be placed at the composting toilets that garbage is not permitted in them. • I like the composting toilets. If the composting toilets or out houses are moved too far away from the anchorage, it may result in increased pollution or degradation of water quality. We practice 'green boating' but know that many boaters will empty sewage into the anchorage if it is the facilities are too far away.
Natural Values (General)	• Natural attributes of the park must be protected • Inventory requirements: vegetation, marine • Must identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas • Protection is good • The Environmental Stewardship Division should carry out and make public an independent environmental impact assessment study • It is very important to maintain the natural values which would be there in the absence of any human beings. In other words, we come there to experience the park as it is. We are disturbed by those who do not respect the natural state of the environment • Be vigilant that enthusiastic visitors do not adversely impact the natural habitat and surroundings of this park which draws them in the first place • Suggestion to ban any harvesting of food or shells • South beach is tending to get cluttered with driftwood to the point that it is unusable, the beach wood could be used by locals • Although protecting natural values is important, should use less Less intrusive fences and trail materials

Issue	Summary of Comments
Natural Values (General) (Issue 6)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • The park values appear to be well managed • Protect the park's natural values by better enforcement, expand the water portion of the park to provide for more visitor anchorage area both in Pirate's Cove itself and in the bay on the south side of the park adjacent to swimming beach • Not enough Park Manager or Park Branch presence. There could be some information tags to describe the natural items such as tree species, rock formations, wildlife, historical sites, etc. MBYC may be called upon to do more in this regard • People should respect the park and leave it as they found it • Heavy use of the campfires, beach and trails have impacted slopes and vegetation, resulting in an area that no longer feels like anything but a heavily used, high-impact campground in the worst sense of the word • Suggestion that the Province institute a management philosophy that values preservation of the natural habitat of the park. This would include removal or relocation of signage so as not to be obtrusive and in keeping with the surroundings
Vegetation	• The Environmental Stewardship Division would like management plan to address issues of restoration, rare species, Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) areas, duration/seasons, tree removal, fire management • Need to protect or natural state of the unique old-growth • Suggestions to restore sites from which facilities have been removed (e.g., replacement of native flora) • The park looks healthy now and is a terrific example of the classic Gulf Islands arboreal Douglas fir ecosystem. There should be no attempts to make the park look different than it does now • We would appreciate seeing Parks staff initiate discussions with some knowledgeable hand-lagger so that the tree cover will benefit from a policy of active hands-on forestry. This would entail careful logging of overmature timber and the cleaning up of the forest lands by persons designated by the Courts as requiring to perform community service. Whilst we appreciate the culling of overmature trees would at the best be economically marginal, it would provide an income to be put towards doing something in the parks • Suggestion to clean up recently created dead plant material to maintain the potential for fire • Prohibit the culling of trees, especially ones like the 5 foot diameter, 600 year old giant that was sacrificed for being near the stairs area - this ancient tree provided habitat for untold numbers of wild creatures and was cut down by Parks staff a year ago. If a major tree is a potential hazard, relocate the trail • Prior to formulating a specific development plan, Parks staff should undertake and make public a complete and thorough environmental survey of the flora and fauna of the park and the potential fire load of the park's and island's timber; this survey should not be limited to the immediate area of the park

Issue	Summary of Comments
Waters / Shoreline	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pigeon Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • Need to protect marine shoreline from pollution and other impacts • Half-hearted attempts of the various Federal, and Provincial Agencies to come up with a clear, cohesive, and enforced policy on discharging sewage by ALL vessels on the West Coast should make them all ashamed of collecting their pay each month. What should be a same requirement to keep our coasts and waters clean, pristine and a delight has somehow degenerated into a squalid fight over jurisdictions • Most management zones should revolve around anchored vessels. For example, the Park should have been included in the areas listed under the Pleasure Craft Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulations, but the Province missed the boat on that one • No fishing should be permitted in the cove • Concerns about the impacts of commercial fishing, e.g., crab fishing • Some people have said that BC cannot enforce discharge regulations. This is incorrect - the Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulations are federal regulations administered by Canadian Coast Guard. The "No Discharge" sites in these regulations are published in these regulations only at the specific request of the BC government. When the Province requests a site be designated "No Discharge", they must also assure the Coast Guard that they have the resources to enforce the designation. An MCL is in effect between the federal and provincial governments which specifies that the province has not only the responsibility to enforce these regulations but is given the authority to do so.
Wildlife	• The Environmental Stewardship Division would like management plan to address any wildlife issues, e.g., the protection of wildlife, rare sensitive species, need for avianities
Cultural / Historical Values	• Protection of First Nations cultural and archaeological sites • Historical sites must be preserved i.e., Brother XII's gun emplacements • Protection of the natural and cultural values of the park in a "mind" • Cultural concerns are "historic" • Because there are several archaeological sites in the park, there is a concern regarding further disturbance to these sites - some of the sites are total undisturbed and should be closely watched in the future • The plan should respect and protect historical sites of ancient native activity • One should acknowledge the work done by Parks staff to protect the integrity and limit damage to the midden in the park. One would hope that the means by which this has been done and any future maintenance are being carried out in accordance with the guidance of the First Nations community

Issue	Summary of Comments
Covenant / "Buffer Zone"	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pigeon Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> - History of purchase and verbal agreement re 10-acre "buffer zone", which was never registered against the legal title - The Discovery Island Community Association suggests formalizing "Buffer Zone" as they feel there is a legal obligation on the part of the Province to honour an alleged verbal agreement between the Ministry and the original owners of the land at the time of the sale. One suggested option is to place a restrictive covenant on the 10-acre in question - The Environmental Stewardship Division has reviewed path files and feels there is no legal obligation to retaining a "buffer zone" although acknowledges that discussions to this effect did take place - Perceptions of some many residents of the need to maintain part of the park with limited development to act as a "buffer" between residents and the park and to act as a fire break - Suggestions that the Province turn over the management and maintenance of the path to Discovery Island owners/residents - Suggestion that the Province sell the "buffer zone" back to islanders, who would register a covenant then lease the land back to the Province - Suggestion to place a binding legal covenant on the "buffer zone" area that preserves it in an undeveloped state in perpetuity - According to residents, the purpose of the "buffer" of waterfront upland along the western side was to separate the public from the private and to provide an additional firebreak, and to remain undeveloped
Park Operations / Management	- Recent development in the park appears to have ignored the Park's agency's own mission statement - development has proceeded without regard to the impact on the larger community or input from the public - Generally satisfied with upkeep of path (several responses) - Suggest garbage collection bags - Park ranger should replenish toilet paper during long weekends and make appearance to campers - Observed an improvement in path maintenance over the past few years - compared to other marine parks this one is well maintained - This year we noticed an increase in the park operators attendance - South deeply dock should have been attended to much sooner - Park Hoods willing to do more - There is a need for on-site supervision and control of campers and facilities - Park maintenance will have to be increased on peak seasons - is this in the budget? - Water on the island is at a premium; collecting and removing garbage is tedious and expensive - removal of garbage should be the responsibility of the parties that bring garbage to the island; there should not be garbage cans, etc., with the necessity of expensive pickup by the Parks Dept - Assume that the septic field situation in the park has the potential of affecting drinking water quality on the island

Issue:	Summary of Comments
Park Operations / Management (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Plover Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • The residents and developers on Discovery have an exemplary record of low impact development - it is wasteful to fail to use local expertise in planning and maintaining facilities unique for this island environment • Whether or not the Province is legally required to respect the 'buffer zone', clearly it has a moral obligation to abide by the written promises of its former political leaders - even if one takes the view that the Province is not legally or ethically bound to abide by the decisions of previous administrations, there can be no denying that the protective intent of establishing the buffer zone, was, and is, an environmentally sound and sensible policy
Enforcement	• Suggestion to hire a park warden during the summer to assist visitors to enjoy the park, learn the rules, collect fees, clean toilets, etc. • Satisfied with the amount of enforcement • Residents have informal enforcement presence and there is some concern that residents are not comfortable acting as 'enforcers' of rules • Some perception of a lack of enforcement by the Parks agency of their own regulations • Require enforcement of holding tanks and still penalties for non-compliance • As was noted in a number of Marine Parks this year the lack of supervision led to huge inappropriate vessels, many of foreign registry, dangerously monopolizing the facilities. This can only lead to trouble as shore trips and bays provided in the parks were never intended for such boats. The lack of clearly placed notices, and lack of enforcement will only lead to trouble • Enforcement need not necessarily be "official" - many boaters will help with enforcement if there is some enabling signage. If there were, for example, a sign saying this is a "Quiet Park no generators or outboard powered dinghies please", then boaters would help enforce. Other issues may be more difficult, like sewage pollution from boats • It is always nice to occasionally see Parks staff visiting the parks, even just to be friendly and "just be there" • There is need for a 24-hour campground supervisor needed in the two summer months and perhaps into September • Suggestion to install an emergency phone • More patrols needed • Communication between Park Herts and the Environmental Stewardship Division could be improved especially when there is no need for immediate back up • The Environmental Stewardship Division generally has a low profile in this park - the contractor is visible during the summer, but park personnel are rarely seen • Not satisfied with the level of enforcement, particular with patrolling etc: fees • Have never seen any Parks staff in the park - they must have a presence that is unobtrusive • The Environmental Stewardship Division should be visible daily and take the opportunity to acquaint visitors with all aspects of the park to encourage respect and good use by all

Issue	Summary of Comments
Enforcement (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • Vandalism and trespass are the most commonly occurring security problems arising from park visitors – an incident a couple years ago involved a group of young people getting out of control (e.g., trespassing on private property, noise, roughhousing, racing around and disturbing other park users) • A round-the-clock warden system should be developed for overseeing the activities of park visitor during the summer period of heavy park usage; it is suggested that some of the wardens be selected among island residents willing to perform this role
Signage / Interpretation	• Suggestion of more visible signage depicting a code of conduct emphasizing fire hazards, the fragility of the ecosystems, anthropological values, garbage removal, personal behaviours (e.g., noise), etc. • Written information about sewage discharge policies should be delivered to boats by park hosts and acquaint boaters with park protocol and joint use of facilities • The photocopied pamphlets are getting a bit hard to read and are a poor visual reflection of an excellent park, they do not do it justice • Quality of brochures and literature could be improved to match the magnificence of the areas being described – and they should be current with information as to how people can best use and respect the parks (holding tanks, no fires, etc.) • Signage on land and pamphlets provided by park host seem to be adequate for visitors • Amount of information available (e.g., signage) is satisfactory • Needed clearer signage to indicate park boundary / private property • Suggestion to post sign delineating the 'buffer zone' and reasons for it remaining off limits to park visitors • Get rid of the Pirates Chest at the entrance to the cove (2 separate responses) • Appropriate education and awareness will be key to maintaining the natural vegetation and habitat in the park in the face of increasing use. Visitors to the park have time to read signage - most are visiting while on vacation and will take the time to read. There may be some 'green boating' signage or literature that could be used in the park. Environment Canada has produced some brochures. • I would support added signage that provides education on First Nations interests and history in the park. In particular this may be a real opportunity to provide information that incorporates the Snuneymuxw language and culture (e.g., signage in SFN language would be very interesting, educational and respectful).
Ongoing Public Involvement	• Some residents and property holders on Decourcy are interested in varying degrees on ongoing participation in the management of the park; suggest better communications between the Parks agency, the Islands Trust and residents • If there were a concerted effort to do something different that really works to preserve the natural attributes of the park – yes, would be interested in a higher-level of involvement in how the park is operated • The Maple Bay Yacht Club has invested a tremendous amount of time and effort carrying out Hosting Duties, annual clean-up of the

Issue	Summary of Comments
Ongoing Public Involvement (Cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> • park, etc. as well as other direct and indirect work of the past 16+ years • The Environmental Stewardship Division and the Park Hosts should continue to meet annually • Interested in more involvement (2 separate responses) • Not interested in direct involvement (2 separate responses) • Park Host should become more involved in the park's operational decisions, sponsor improvements perhaps • MBYC Hosts and longer-term members as well as current members have devoted several thousands of hours towards this park and other marine parks, please keep us informed as genuinely concerned and participatory colleagues
Impacts on Island community / Relationship with Property Owners	• Recent history of mistrust of the provincial parks agency by property owners • More timely responses to concerns of residents are needed • Impacts of park use on Decourcy residents have to be considered • The plan should carefully weigh the impact of park development on the environment of Decourcy Island, in which the park is located; the plan should take into account the rights, interests and resources of island residents • The private citizens who own, use and live on Decourcy should be the first to be consulted when changes in park use will impact them. Implement a plan that guarantees this will always happen • Residents have concerns about trespass on private property, vandalism, and litter along public roads • Decourcy islanders put a high value on having access to the park's sandy beach and walking trails through the old growth forest on the peninsula. We all treat the park as a person treasure, working hard to preserve its natural beauty. This might involve cleaning up trash, putting out fires, or requesting appropriate behaviour by patrons of the park. Unfortunately, more often it involves trying to defend the park against the continuous degradation by the Parks agency • Over time, park activities has occurred in areas closer to residential properties resulting in unfortunate encounters between park users and local residents • The island community has, by default, provided stewardship to the park over the years, including fire suppression when needed • The residents share in the enjoyment of the park with other people from BC and elsewhere • There is a lack of trust and faith in the Province to respond to residents concerns, combined with a perceived feeling that the Parks agency is more responsive to other stakeholders such as the yachting community. • Need for the Environmental Stewardship Division/consultants to communicate with residents (e.g., minutes of meetings) • Decourcy Island residents and property owners have a big stake in the future of the island; it is their property being put at risk; they are by far the best and most reliable custodians of the entire island • The self interest of residents should be kept in perspective

Issue	Summary of Comments
Impacts on Island community / Relationship with Property Owners (cont'd)	<i>These comments have been collected through the public consultation process to establish a management plan for Pirates Cove Marine Park. These comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the consultants or the Environmental Stewardship Division.</i> - Residents do not necessarily speak with one voice – a few residents do not agree with point of view that some members of the Community Association are putting forth (i.e., re 'buffer zone' and extent of 'development') - Suggestion a policy that discourages park users from going beyond the boundary to impact the privacy of Decourcy residents - The Environmental Stewardship Division should establish a process of on-going dialogue with Decourcy Island taxpayers - Lines of communication between the Environmental Stewardship Division and Decourcy Island residents must be formalized; suggest that a joint consultative body should be established comprised of Provincial Park administrators and island residents to consider current and future matters related to the administration and development of Pirates Cove Park
Regional Context	- Consistency with OCP for Gabriola and DeCourcy islands (1982), e.g., with respect to moving dinghy dock to east side of cove, and maintaining park activity on the peninsula - The answer to ever increasing demand for marine park capacity by boaters, kayakers and commercial tour operators is to provide more parks. There is still time to acquire land for marine parks and now is the time to recognize that need and to take action - Need to shift the pressure away from small, unserviced parks like Pirates Cove; facilities for this use should be located on larger islands - Endorse the development of other marine parks in the region in order to reduce the pressure on Pirates Cove. - The upkeep of the park is better than many but the park is so popular that the sheer number of visitors is going to threaten its whole viability. The problem is far bigger than one individual marine park. It has to do with a level of social self-discipline that is necessary for even the least of us to enjoy this wonderful coast - Need for more parks like Pirates Cove - We have no parks in the marine parks system in BC which are protected from obtrusive disturbances. - We have noticed that over the last 30 years the size of many boats coming to the park has increased tremendously which presents a problem of space. We have seen 10 – 15 boats over 45' in the park. There are kayakers now in increasing numbers and something needs to be done to either limit them or provide additional camping space - Demographics indicate that there will be more demand for peaceful, natural escapes in the near future as more and more people take to recreational pursuits. The ideal location of Pirate's Cove will make it an even more popular destination for traveling boaters and weekenders. It is essential that a cooperative arrangement be maintained with the Parks agency, residents and user groups because we all want the integrity of the park to be maintained - The Environmental Stewardship Division should seek and develop property on adjoining islands to meet the recreational demands of an increasing population Immediate effort should be made to advance the search and planning for another larger park for overnight use in less environmentally sensitive areas

This page intentionally left blank.

Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Appendix C
Minutes of November 17, 2001
Public Meeting



Ministry of Water,
Land and Air
Protection

This page intentionally left blank.

**Pirates Cove Marine Park
Public Meeting to Discuss a Management Plan**

Saturday, 17 November 2001

ATTENDEES

Project Consultants

Rosaline Canessa, AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd.

Marcy Sangret, AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd.

Environmental Stewardship Division

Chris Kissinger, Acting District Manager

Jim Morris, District Planning Officer

De Courcy Island Property Owners

John Bright

Rosemarie Bright

Don Craigdallie

Lynne Craigdallie

Don Moss

John Nayler

Bruce Richardson

Mindy Richardson

Fred Russell

Art Spira

Elaine Spira

Yachting Community

Michelle Carr, boater

Brian Dunkley, boater

Holly Fowler, Cowichan Power and Sail Squadron

Joan de Verteuil, Cowichan Power and Sail Squadron

Ian de Verteuil, Cowichan Power and Sail Squadron

John van den Hengel, Maple Bay Yacht Club

Bob King, Maple Bay Yacht Club

Paul Witzer, Cap City Yacht Club

Kayaking Community

Nancy Hamilton, Wilderness Kayaking

Islands Trust

Chris Jackson, Planner

OVERVIEW OF PROCESS TO DEVELOP A MANAGEMENT PLAN

Following an introduction by Chris Kissinger, Marcy Sangret presented an overview of the process and consultation to date:

What is a management plan?

- Defines the role of the park in the provincial park system
- States the long-term vision for the park
- Identifies key management issues
- Establishes zoning
- Establishes objectives and strategies to guide management and development
- Sets priorities for implementation

What is the process?

- Review of background materials
- Identification of stakeholders
- Announcement and invitation to participate
- Site visits
- Consultation and data collection
- Consolidation of identified issues
- Meetings and follow-up with stakeholders
- Development of vision
- Consideration of alternative options
- Preliminary zoning/site plan
- Preparation of draft management plan
- Public review and comment
- Revisions and final plan
- Adoption of plan by the Environmental Stewardship Division (March 2002)

Who is participating?

- Federal, provincial and local government
- First Nations
- Decourcy property owners
- Park use permit holders
- Yacht clubs and other boating interests
- Kayak clubs, associations and individuals
- Marine park and recreation interest groups

The following comments were raised in discussion:

- Written comment has been received from the Snuneymuxw [Nanaimo] First Nation, but there may be some confidentiality restrictions on distributing their submission. However, the Snuneymuxw First Nation's response to the developing management plan has been positive regarding working with the Environmental Stewardship Division to protect their archaeological sites and they are interested in further involvement in the process.

- The Environmental Stewardship Division will assess confidentiality issues regarding distributing comments received from the public. Fred Russell indicated that any of his correspondence may be distributed. It was noted that other management plans include public comments attributed to individuals in an appendix.
- One of the components of a management plan is to determine appropriate levels of use within a park through zoning. Regionally, one can examine other parks in the area which offer similar or different opportunities to Pirates Cove Marine Park.
- Delegates from West Vancouver Yacht Club, Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and the Council of BC Yacht Clubs were noted as absent at the meeting. All had been invited. As a past president of the Council of BC Yacht Clubs, Bob King would be reporting back to the Council.
- The *Background Report for Pirates Cove Provincial Marine Park*, produced for the Environmental Stewardship Division in March 2001 had not been distributed to interested stakeholders. This raised concerns by the residents about the credibility of the Environmental Stewardship Division in making information available. The Environmental Stewardship Division will send copies of the Background Report, and other requested documents, to interested stakeholders subject to confidentiality agreements (see list at end of document).
- Participants were also asked to identify additional sources of information. The Official Community Plan is an additional reference source not included on the list presented.
- There is an understanding between the Environmental Stewardship Division and the Archaeology Branch not to distribute locational information on archaeological sites.
- Upon review of the archaeological assessment report, several campsites which had been located on top of known archaeological sites were re-located in the spring of 2001. Upon receipt of concerns from property holders regarding the re-location of these sites, the Environmental Stewardship Division committed to removing a minimum of three sites as a 'given' in the management plan.
- It was recognized that the attendance figure shown depicts a general indication of numbers but incomplete data for some months prevent assessment of accurate numbers. The Park Host Coordinator collects numbers on overnight boating traffic which is forwarded to the Environmental Stewardship Division. Boating traffic is limited by space and is therefore self-regulating and relatively constant over time. Kayaking numbers have decreased in the last two years, perhaps because they now have to pay at campsites. It was noted that the number of kayakers do not reflect the number of visitors during the day particularly commercial kayak groups.

ISSUES

Marcy Sangret summarised issues raised by the public consultation to date according to the following categories: boundary and zoning; natural values; fire management; historic/cultural values; recreation and use; operations and enforcement; and other management issues.

BOUNDARY AND ZONING

Issues raised to date include:

- Park is too small to meet growing demand by users
- Desire to see development concentrated in a few areas rather than spread out
- Zoning should provide 'buffer' between park and private property
- Boundary between park and private property not clearly delineated

The following comments were raised in discussion:

- Don Moss and Fred Russell gave presentations on the history of the 'buffer zone' going back to when the park was purchased by the Province in the 1960s. They shared a copy of a letter that stated that the Minister who participated in negotiations to purchase the lands, indicated to the seller that the 10 acres closest to the private properties was to be a 'buffer zone' and that no development was intended in this area.
- Campsites have always been present on the 'buffer zone' but they had not been formalized until this year.
- It was commented that Decourcy Island residents are not against campsites, but rather would like to see campsites and associated facilities relocated to the peninsula.
- It was commented that the Cove Trail and access to the water well could be maintained.
- Decourcy Island residents volunteered to relocate the campsites.
- Chris Jackson requested confirmation of the western boundary of the park crossing the channel as depicted in the posted maps.

NATURAL VALUES

Issues raised to date include:

- Protect native vegetation and habitat
- Restore damaged/degraded areas
- Protect foreshore and water quality (e.g., from pollution, sewage discharge)
- Minimize impacts of recreational use
- Understand the parks ecological components when making management decisions
- Appropriate education and interpretation
- Manage impacts from outside uses (e.g., commercial fishing)

The following comments were raised in discussions:

- Residents commented that they have a sense of stewardship of natural areas and can easily identify areas to protect.
- One resident commented that Pirates Cove is cleaner than in past years. This is in part due to the efforts of yacht club members, particularly their annual cleanup.
- A biophysical survey of the park has not been conducted due to limitation in resources. Specific habitats and species are protected based on experience and knowledge. Impact assessments are conducted for specific work activities.
- It was suggested that a broader survey beyond specific work sites is required and residents would be willing to assist.
- It was commented that the largest and oldest Douglas-fir tree, which served as an eagle perch and habitat for other birds, was cut down because of the presence of rot, without consideration of the ecological function of the tree. It was suggested that the management plan could make recommendations to avoid something similar happening again.
- It was suggested that some areas should be left 'fallow' to allow the vegetation to recover.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Issues raised to date include:

- Risk of fire to public safety and private property
- No fire fighting capability or emergency services on the island
- No regular enforcement presence
- Disregard of current 'No Fire' policy by some
- Proper vegetation management is needed to reduce fire hazards
- Zoning of park should consider potential fire breaks
- Consider risk of fires originating outside of park

The following comments were raised in discussions:

- Fire hazard is a main and longstanding concern for the residents.
- 1979 and 2000 reports indicated that the highest risk areas were in the 10 acre 'buffer zone'.
- While there is a memorandum of understanding with the BC Forest Service concerns were raised about response to nighttime fires.
- Some residents have had to ask campers to put out their campfires.
- It was suggested that the gate across the wide path into the park be left unlocked to allow trucks entry in the event of a fire, and that an alternative means of delineating the park boundary be used.
- It was commented that another fire hazard, which originates outside of the park, results from property holders starting up wood stoves and propane tanks which haven't been maintained.
- There is a natural firebreak at the isthmus leading to the peninsula.

HISTORIC/CULTURAL VALUES

Issues raised to date include:

- Protection of First Nations archaeological sites from developments and human activities
- Protection of other cultural resources (e.g., Brother XII gun emplacements)

There were no comments raised regarding historical/cultural values.

RECREATION AND USE

Issues raised to date include:

- Multiple users with varying needs
- Low impact use preferred
- Minimize risk of fire
- Concern about park's ability to accommodate large groups (e.g., kayak tours)
- Concern about some visitors' behaviours (e.g., fires, garbage, noise)
- Limiting use (how much use is too much?)

The following comments were raised in discussion:

Boating

- A suggestion was made that the number of visitors could be regulated by a reservation system during the busiest months. Pirates Cove can accommodate 20-40 boats depending on the size of boats.
- A suggestion was made that the management plan should state that no more improvements would be developed to attract more boats since the cove is reaching capacity for boats.
- Overflow boats sometimes go to the next bay (to the northwest of Pirates Cove) and anchor directly in front of people's homes causing a disturbance. This is not a common occurrence but it has happened more often in the last two years.
- It was noted that it is difficult to enforce boating restrictions beyond the boundary of the park. However, it was recognized that decreasing the number of boat sites in the park, could exacerbate the overflow problem. A suggestion was made to dissuade people from anchoring in front of residential properties by recommending alternative areas. This is done unofficially by members of the MBYC.
- The western dinghy dock is there to provide access to camping areas and, to a lesser extent, to the out houses. The dinghy dock also provides access to the stern ties. There are stern ties on both the western and eastern shores of Pirates Cove.
- The word 'dinghy' is ill-defined as a 2nd boat to a major boat could be as long as 20 ft and technically be defined as a dinghy.
- It was suggested that the western dinghy dock be moved to the eastern shore to minimize use of the 'buffer zone'.

- It was suggested that residents and members of the Maple Bay Yacht Club participate in a joint walkabout.
- Regarding the number of boats permitted to tie-up on the park host float, Bob King responded that generally, there is a limit of one party per float, although there is sometimes an overlap. More boats have been observed on a float. MBYC has no control during the shoulder season when the Park Host float is not manned. MBYC would be glad to receive photos when the float has more than one boat to assist them in enforcing the regulations.

Kayaking

- Nancy Hamilton from Wilderness Kayaking stated that kayakers tend to take the first campsite available and a flat platform is considered a luxury. Therefore, kayakers would likely not be opposed to moving the campsites from the 'buffer zone' to the peninsula which would offer better views. Security of equipment is an issue for kayakers making it necessary to lock boats onto logs above the high tide mark or have a group member sleep near the kayaks. The fact that Decourcy Island does not have ferry access does not necessarily reduce the security risk. Kayakers are starting to self-police.
- Kayakers do pay fees for Decourcy Island.
- The mother ship industry is a means to get more kayakers directly onto distant sites. There is not much regulation of this industry.
- The Sea Kayakers Guide Alliance of BC is the best agency with which to communicate with the kayaking industry (www.skga.bc.com).
- It was commented that the high volume of day use, attributed to the island's proximity to Vancouver Island, inhibits at least one outfit with an education emphasis from going to Decourcy because of their education emphasis.

Micro-cruise ships

- It was commented that the micro-cruise ships, which drop off about 100-150 people onto places like Decourcy Island for day trips, are increasing and could be a potential impact on the park.

Camping

- See resident's comments above with respect to the 'buffer zone'.

Trails

- Properly maintained trails control high use by keeping traffic where you want them to go. Tent platforms serve a similar function.
- Fallen trees entice people off the trails.

FACILITIES, OPERATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Issues raised to date include:

- Keep the park natural / limit development
- Enough / not enough / too much facilities
- Accessibility vs. naturalness
- Protection vs. desire to see fewer facilities
- Locations (e.g., upland vs. lowland)
- Number and type (e.g., stern rings or buoys)
- Scale and materials (e.g., trails and toilets) Perceived lack of enforcement
- Mixed opinions about interpretation, signage and education
- Opportunities for public input and relationship-building

The following comments were raised in discussions:

Waste Control

- Discharge regulations are under federal jurisdiction, therefore the Environmental Stewardship Division had no means to enforce discharge regulations. The Environmental Stewardship Division could monitor coliform counts and alert Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- The composting toilet is adequately designed for the level of use sustained over the three months of the summer, but it is not designed for garbage. It was suggested that a garbage receptacle could be installed and emptied by the residents.

Park Stewardship

- It was suggested that there is a need for a permanent body/committee, comprised of the Environmental Stewardship Division and property holders, to oversee management of Pirates Cove Marine Park.
- A management presence in the park comes down to limited resources. While there isn't a practice of deputizing individuals to manage the parks, other parks do have volunteers. The Environmental Stewardship Division would be willing to accept volunteer interest by residents.
- It was suggested that park management and maintenance be turned over to the residents association. In addition, a stewardship arrangement could be implemented.

- It was also suggested that the Environmental Stewardship Division could be a member of the resident association and attend meetings.

OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The following comments were raised in discussion:

Official Community Plan

- The provincial plan and OCP do not often meld and it was suggested that there is a need to narrow the gap between the two planning processes.
- It was suggested that the OCP be placed back to its level of importance. The OCP was revisited in 2000 but the park aspect remains the same. The OCP recommended that camping facilities and the western dinghy float be moved to the peninsula part of the park. It was noted that the Islands Trust will not support contraventions to the OCP but could apply a grandfather clause. It was also noted that the Environmental Stewardship Division is not legally obliged to follow the OCP, and the campsites and dinghy dock were not placed in contravention of the OCP since they preceded the OCP. If the OCP does not represent the interests of the community, the OCP could be amended.

Water Lot Lease

- There is no truth to the rumour that the resident association is going to expand their water lot lease and encroach into the park. The water lot lease has been held since 1967 to provide water access to residents and is not a marina. The lease was last renewed in 1982 for 30 years. There are currently 30 slips with the potential for a few more. BC Assets and Lands discourages private floats beyond the water lot lease.

Signage and Education

- It was suggested that signage be posted and a pamphlet distributed with a code of conduct reminding visitors, among other things, that there are residents on the island.
- It was commented that there is a level of ignorance among boaters using the park and the Environmental Stewardship Division could be an information source for boating safety and appropriate boating practice.
- These alternative anchoring areas could be identified on a plaque where boaters submit payment and offsite on a website.
- The website could also synthesize the vision statement for the park and distribute other information.

- It was suggested that a map be posted at the park which includes an estimate of the walking time for the circuit trail.

DRAFT VISION

Marcy Sangret presented the draft vision developed by the consultants. The Vision Statement is intended to:

- be a 'big picture' statement
- be forward looking (~ten years)
- reflect shared interests
- provide overall strategic direction
- set the context for management strategies
- evolve and be adaptive - not static

The following words and statements emanating from public input were incorporated into the Vision Statement:

- leave the park the way it is now
- trails, paths, walking, scenery, views
- quiet, peaceful, tranquil, serene, uncrowded
- natural beauty, nature, forests, wildlife
- safe moorage, anchoring, boating destination
- multiple users, recreation, low impact use
- proximity to home, accessible, just remote enough
- special, unique, jewel, treasure

Participants were asked to review the draft Vision Statement and submit comments by answering the three questions on the form that was distributed (see attachment). Comments can be submitted to Marcy Sangret by fax (250-656-4789), email (msangret@axys.net), or mail:

AXYS Environmental Consulting Ltd.
PO Box 2219 – 2045 Mills Road West
Sidney, BC V8L 3S8

Please try to have comments on the vision to Marcy as soon as possible and no later than December 14. It is intended that a draft version of the management plan will be ready for distribution by early January.

REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTS

The Environmental Stewardship Division is arranging for the copying and distribution of reference documents to those individuals that indicated an interest.

Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Appendix D
Generalized Provincial
Park Zoning Table



Ministry of Water,
Land and Air
Protection

This page intentionally left blank.

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment	Special Feature
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use.	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access.	Generally low.
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below).	Motorsed (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorsed (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted.	Various, may require special access permit.
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas.	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanised means such as boat or plane.	Determined by location of special resources, may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones.
Size of Zone	Small - usually less than 2,000 ha.	Can range from small to large.	Small - usually less than 2000 hectares.
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas.	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features.	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection).
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities.	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities.	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access.
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted; facilities for motorsed access - e.g., docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.	Interpretative facilities only - resources are to be protected.
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas.	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting.	None - resources to be maintained unimpaired.
Management Guidelines	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor.	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails).	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and, where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts.
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rathtrevor Beach Park; Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park.	Core area in Cathedral Park; North beach in Naikoon Park.	Botanical Beach tidepools within Juan de Fuca Park; Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park.

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised activities will be allowed
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment
Means of Access	Non-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites, foot, canoe (horses may be permitted)	Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access), foot, canoe (horses may be permitted)
Location	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis
Size of Zone	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares	Large - greater than 5,000 hectares
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing)	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g., caving, climbing)
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points, e.g., dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings
Management Guidelines	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience
Examples of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park, Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park, Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area

	Intensive Recreation	Natural Environment	Special Feature
Objective	To provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities	To protect scenic values and to provide for backcountry recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment	To protect and present significant natural or cultural resources, features or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values
Use Level	Relatively high density and long duration types of use	Relatively low use but higher levels in association with nodes of activity or access	Generally low
Means of Access	All-weather public roads or other types of access where use levels are high (see "Impacts" below)	Motorised (powerboats, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles), non-motorised (foot, horse, canoe, bicycles). Aircraft and motorboat access to drop-off and pickup points will be permitted	Various, may require special access permit
Location	Contiguous with all-weather roads and covering immediate areas, modified landscapes or other high-use areas	Removed from all-weather roads but easily accessible on a day-use basis. Accessible by mechanised means such as boat or plane	Determined by location of special resources, may be surrounded by or next to any of the other zones
Size of Zone	Small - usually less than 2 000 ha	Can range from small to large	Small - usually less than 2000 hectares
Boundary Definition	Includes areas of high facility development in concentrated areas	Boundaries should consider limits of activity/facility areas relative to ecosystem characteristics and features	Area defined by biophysical characteristics or the nature and extent of cultural resources (adequate to afford protection)
Recreation Opportunities	Vehicle camping, picnicking, beach activities, power-boating, canoeing, kayaking, strolling, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, snowplay downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, specialised activities	Walk-in/boat-in camping, power-boating, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, bicycling, historic and nature appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, river rafting, horseback riding, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, and specialised activities	Sightseeing, historic and nature appreciation. May be subject to temporary closures or permanently restricted access
Facilities	May be intensely developed for user convenience. Campgrounds, landscaped picnic/play areas, trail accommodation or interpretative buildings, boat launches, administrative buildings, service compounds, gravel pits, disposal sites, wood lots, parking lots, etc.	Moderately developed for user convenience. Trails, walk-in/boat-in campsites, shelters, accommodation buildings may be permitted, facilities for motorised access - e.g. docks, landing strips, fuel storage, etc.	Interpretative facilities only - resources are to be protected
Impacts on Natural Environment	Includes natural resource features and phenomena in a primarily natural state but where human presence may be readily visible both through the existence of recreation facilities and of people using the zone. Includes areas of high facility development with significant impact on concentrated areas	Area where human presence on the land is not normally visible, facility development limited to relatively small areas. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting	None - resources to be maintained unimpaired
Management Guidelines	Oriented toward maintaining a high quality recreation experience. Intensive management of resource and/or control of visitor activities. Operational facilities designed for efficient operation while remaining unobtrusive to the park visitor	Oriented to maintaining a natural environment and a high quality recreation experience. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience or to limit impacts. Separation of less compatible recreational activities and transportation modes. Designation of transportation may be necessary to avoid potential conflicts (e.g. horse trails, cycle paths, hiking trails)	High level of management protection with ongoing monitoring. Oriented to maintaining resources and where appropriate, a high quality recreational and interpretative experience. Active or passive management depending on size, location, and nature of the resource. Visitor access may be restricted to preserve the recreation experience and to limit impacts
Examples of Zoning	Campground in Rath Trevor Beach Park, Gibson Pass ski area in E.C. Manning Park	Core area in Cathedral Park, North beach in Naikoon Park	Botanical Beach, tidepools within Juan de Fuca Park, Sunshine Meadows in Mount Assiniboine Park

	Wilderness Recreation	Wilderness Conservation
Objective	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where air access may be permitted to designated sites	To protect a remote, undisturbed natural landscape and to provide unassisted backcountry recreation opportunities dependent on a pristine environment where no motorised activities will be allowed
Use Level	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment	Very low use to provide solitary experiences and a wilderness atmosphere. Use may be controlled to protect the environment
Means of Access	Non-mechanised & non-motorised - except may permit low frequency air access to designated sites: foot, canoe (horses may be permitted)	Non-mechanised & non-motorised (no air access): foot, canoe (horses may be permitted)
Location	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis	Remote - not easily visited on a day-use basis
Size of Zone	Large - greater than 5 000 hectares	Large - greater than 5 000 hectares
Boundary Definition	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features. Boundaries will encompass areas of visitor interest for specific activities supported by air access	Defined by ecosystem limits and geographic features
Recreation Opportunities	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g. caving, climbing)	Backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, river rafting, nature and historic appreciation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, specialised activities (e.g. caving, climbing)
Facilities	Minimal facility development for user convenience and safety, and protection of the environment: e.g. trails, primitive campsites, etc. Some basic facilities at access points: e.g. dock, primitive shelter, etc.	None
Impacts on Natural Environment	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings. Evidence of human presence is confined to specific facility sites. Facilities are visually compatible with natural setting	Natural area generally free of evidence of modern human beings
Management Guidelines	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience	Oriented to protecting a pristine environment. Management actions are minimal and not evident. Managed to ensure low visitor use levels. Visitor access may be restricted to protect the natural environment and visitor experience
Examples of Zoning	Quanchus Mountains Wilderness in Tweedsmuir Park Wilderness Zone in Spatsizi Park	Upper Murray River watershed within Monkman Park, Garibaldi Park Nature Conservancy Area

Pirates Cove Marine
Provincial Park

MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Appendix E
Legal
Boundary



Ministry of Water,
Land and Air
Protection

This page intentionally left blank.

Legal Boundary for Pirates Cove Marine Provincial Park

All those parcels or tracts of Crown land, together with all that foreshore or land covered by water, situated in Nanaimo District and contained within the following described boundaries:

Firstly: Lot 1, Section 23, Plan 18562, situated on De Courey Island.

Secondly: that part of Pirates Cove lying to the South and East of the following described line commencing at the most southerly corner of District Lot 364, being a point on the southwesterly shore natural boundary of Pirates Cove;

thence northeasterly along the southeasterly boundary of District Lot 364 to the most easterly corner of District Lot 364;

thence northeasterly in a straight line to the most northerly point of Lot 1 of Section 23, Plan 18562, being a point on the northwesterly shore natural boundary of Pirates Cove.

The whole park containing approximately 31 hectares (24 hectares of upland and 7 hectares of foreshore).

This page intentionally left blank.

